Hafa Adai!

Man in 'ice' case says he was expecting bow and arrow, not drugs. PAGE 2
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# Saipan Tribune

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# Concepcion turns down CPA offer

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

**» King-Hinds believes Concepcion's decision was politically influenced**

Despite a majority 5-1 vote in favor of offering the post of Commonwealth Ports Authority executive director

Concepcion

to Christopher A. Concepcion, the man himself has turned down the offer and will remain as the Marianas Visitors Authority's managing director.

See CPA on Page 4

## Asiana to suspend flights to NMI in November

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

Asiana Airlines, one of the CNMI's largest airline carriers since the resumption of airline flights post-pandemic, will be suspending flights to Saipan in November due to several factors, including the Commonwealth Ports Authority's recently implemented fee increases.

According to InTak Hwang, Asiana Airlines Saipan branch general

See ASIANA on Page 4

## CNMI celebrates humanities in October

CHRYSTAL MARINO
Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, Lt Gov. David M. Apatang, and members of the community share a smile after the 2023 CNMI Humanities Month proclamation signing yesterday at the NMI Museum of History and Culture in Garapan.

CHRYSTAL MARINO
From left, Francisco M. Sablan Middle School students Que'Ana Limes and Ritaline Lizama read the CNMI Humanities Month proclamation in the Carolinian and Chamorro languages yesterday at the NMI Museum of History and Culture in Garapan during the 2023 CNMI Humanities Month proclamation signing.

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
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CORRESPONDENT

To celebrate what it means to be human, whether through customs, culture, art, history, language, media and more, Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang joined the Northern Marianas Humanities Council at the NMI Museum

See CNMI on Page 4

## Palacios: E-Land, DPL negotiations for Mariana Resort lease 'is pretty close'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

E-Land Group and the Department of Public Lands are currently negotiating for the lease of the unoccupied Mariana Resort & Spa property in Marpi, according to Gov. Arnold I. Palacios.

Palacios

Palacios disclosed in an interview on Saturday that DPL is now busy reviewing E-Land Group's proposal.

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SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

# Local

## Man in 'ice' case says he was expecting bow and arrow, not drugs

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

One of the two men accused of smuggling 10 lbs of methamphetamine or "ice" through the U.S. Post Office that were disguised as lava lamps now claims that he was expecting a bow and arrow, not drugs.

Yang Liang has claimed that he was expecting a package from a friend in Guam, but to his knowledge, he was receiving a bow and arrow.

Yang is now facing charges in the U.S. District Court for the NMI He is charged with conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute methamphetamine

According to the complaint against Yang, Customs officer Shota Castro was inspecting a parcel addressed to P.O. Box 10003 9 PMB 481-B on Sept. 23, 2023, during a routine inspection of mail at the Chalan Kanoa post office and identified four boxes containing silver lava lamps inside the parcel. He noticed that one of the lava lamps appeared to be tampered with and there was a dry crystal-like substance on the lamp.

Castro then conducted a field test of the substance, which yielded a positive result for methamphetamine. The parcel and contents were then turned over to the Saipan Customs Contraband Enforcement Team and the Drug Enforcement Administration.

Following the discovery, DEA special agent Kirk F. Johns stated that a U.S. postal inspector applied for a warrant with the U.S. District Court for the installation of a tracking device inside the parcel, which the court granted.

John said that, prior to the discovery, Yang visited a mail service shop and inquired about a parcel. Yang allegedly provided a tracking number and cell number for the mail service to call when the parcel arrived.

In addition, Yang inquired about a parcel that was not addressed to him.

On Sept. 27, an unidentified male referred to as "AA" entered the mail service shop and asked to check post box 481-B. AA allegedly didn't have the key to the box so Yang came and provided it to him. AA received the two boxes that were had been discovered to contain "ice."

As AA began to open the target parcel with scissors, Yang rushed out of the mail service shop, followed closely by federal agents.

Later, AA took the two parcels to Yang and when Yang picked up the box and placed it in his car, both men were detained by authorities.

Through an interpreter, Yang told investigators he was expecting a bow and arrow from his friend in Guam.

Yang said his friend Batu, who was in Guam, informed him on Sept. 23, 2023, that he should expect packages with a phone, cup, crossbow, lantern, and passport. Yang stated that Batu provided him with tracking numbers for these packages.

Yang said Batu told him how to receive the packages and instructed him to deliver the package with lanterns based on follow-up instructions.

Yang told officers that he was tricked into receiving the parcels, not knowing they contained drugs. However, investigators noted they had not informed Yang that methamphetamine was discovered inside either package.

Yang remains under Department of Corrections' custody pending further court proceedings.

## DPS revives its co-op program for senior high school students

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety has revived its long stagnant cooperative education, better known as "co-op"—a program with local high schools—and has brought aboard seven seniors to work at the department for the rest of the semester.

Under the leadership of DPS Commissioner Clement Bermudes, DPS has restarted accepting interested students who want to join their team via the co-op program.

Bermudes

For this first semester, DPS brought on seven high school students from Marianas High School, Kagman High School, and Saipan Southern High School.

"We brought on seven co-op high school students after the job fair that was held a few weeks ago. Specifically, we brought on seven seniors from all Saipan high schools," he said.

Bermudes said he wanted to revive the program in the spirit of transparency and because these students are the future of the department.

"These students are the future generation of officers. They are interested in joining the department someday. We are excited to be rotating them for the next three months so they can have thorough exposure to what we do here in the department. I'm very transparent, so as commissioner, I want to really expose what we do in the department and this is something I aim to continue to do, so that our community knows what we do here," he said.

In addition, Bermudes hopes the students will be able to determine for themselves if they want to pursue a career in law enforcement someday.

"Typically, the hope is the students get exposed to what it's like to be an officer and that they will like the experience so that they can decide whether it's a career field they want to get into. This is really a good way to have them find out what they want for their future. We hope there will be another cycle; this is only the first semester," he said.

The students will be working at the department until January.

"We are excited to have these students with us. It's been awhile since we had this. The program has been successful in the past. We hope they will act as our representatives out there in their respective schools and share what we do here in the department," Bermudes said.

# PSS holds YAP Planning and Networking Session

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
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CORRESPONDENT

CHRYSTAL MARINO

Youth Advisory Panel student leaders and advisors from Chacha Oceanview Middle School pose for a photo during the YAP Planning and Networking Session last Monday at the Saipan World Resort in Susupe.

Representing their schools, and acting as a voice for their peers, dozens of young leaders belonging to the Youth Advisory Panel under the CNMI Public School System's Personal Responsibility Education Program gathered yesterday at the Saipan World Resort in Susupe to plan their yearlong positive youth development activities and network with community partners.

*Saipan Tribune* was able to get some comments from participating YAP student leaders and advisors just before the Youth Advisory Panel Student Leadership and Advisors Planning and Networking Session started.

Kenneth Pua, an 8th grader at Chacha Middle School, shared with Saipan Tribune that, along with being a voice for his peers, he joined the program to "have fun and try and socialize with new people" as well as to make lesson plans more fun for students.

Frank Rabauliman Jr., one of the counselors at Chacha, told *Saipan Tribune*, "I'm really looking forward to seeing what our students are able to plan out. I'm also excited for friends to learn how to network. As adults we network with…different schools, so this is a great opportunity for our students to learn how to network at an early age, especially starting from elementary all the way up to high school. It's a great bridge for our students to learn more responsibility as well as become more independent."

Rabauliman said he is glad this planning and networking event was held this year, since it did not happen last year.

With participating student from grades K-12 PSS schools on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, the main objective of the meeting was to allow YAP student leaders, under the supervision of their advisers, to network and collaborate with PSS programs and community partners as they plan their yearlong positive youth development activities, during which they come up with at least one event that YAP student leaders will host in their own school campus. Other than one major monthly YAP event, each school will host at least three more school-based activities.

For Irene Wang, a junior from Marianas High School, she feels the event is certainly needed. "I feel like it's a great way for students to really speak up and say what's going on, not just through an adult's point of view but also students' point of view," she said. "I am really looking forward to the activities coming up because it's really exciting."

Wang's school adviser, Kadi Camacho, said, "Pretty much glad that this is happening again to allow fresh new student leaders to give their ideas on what the school and district levels plan."

Camacho hopes that, by the end of the day, the student leaders will have an idea of district plans for the rest of the school year and put in their ideas for the events that they want to proceed with, such as seminars, monthly activities for the whole district, and more.

After the event concluded at 4pm, PSS' State PREP coordinator for Student Support Services, Elfriede D. Suda, described the event as a "definite" success and YAP student officers were able to plan out themes for their upcoming YAP, work on activities and events to be held throughout the year, and represent their school and peers, discussing with community partners what works and doesn't work for the youth.

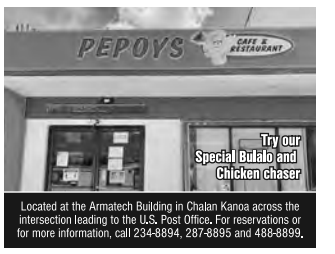
## New host family opportunities in FY 2024

The Saipan Mayor's Office announced yesterday an opportunity for community members to participate in its International Exchange Program by playing host to international students who will be visiting the CNMI in fiscal year 2024.

"We are actively seeking host families who are eager to provide a welcoming home for international students, fostering cultural exchange, and creating lifelong friendships," said a statement from the Saipan Mayor's Office. "Together, let's create memorable experiences and lifelong connections through the Saipan Mayor's Office International Exchange Program."

The news release did not indicate the nationalities of the visiting students, but they usually are from Japan.

For more information about the International Exchange Program or to express your interest in hosting, contact Hiroko Tenorio at (670) 234-6208 or htenorio@mos.gov.mp or visit the saipanmayor.cnmi.gov website. ***(PR)***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Located at the Armatech Building in Chalan Kanoa across the intersection leading to the U.S. Post Office. For reservations or for more information, call 234-8894, 287-8895 and 488-8899.

## Saipan Mayor's Office has launched revamped website

The Saipan Mayor's Office announced that the it has taken a new step into the future with the launching of a new and improved website, saipanmayor.cnmi.gov, that went live last Oct. 1.

The revamped page has redesigned features and contains new and improved visuals and enables user-friendly navigation throughout the page. This revamped website presents a new and vibrant look and gives the user a better understanding on the different aspects of the Saipan Mayor's Office such as its programs and services.

You may access the Saipan Mayor's Office's new website at saipanmayor.cnmi.gov. Discover, engage, and stay informed with the Saipan Mayor's Office through its newly transformed online presence.

For any questions or more information, contact the Saipan Mayor's office at (670) 234- 6208. Office hours are Monday through Friday, from 7:30am to 4:30pm. The Saipan Mayor's Office is also open through lunch. ***(PR)***

# OGM recommends indirect costs reimbursements designated to affected agencies

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Epiphanio E. Cabrera Jr., who is the administrator of the Office of Grants Management & State Clearinghouse, said that indirect costs reimbursements should be designated for the indirect cost pool of affected agencies.

Cabrera said the affected agencies are the Division of Financial Services, Division of Treasury, Office of Management & Budget, Office of Personnel Management, Civil Service Commission, Office of the Public Auditor, Division of Procurement & Supply, Administrative Services, and the Office of Grants Management.

In a letter to Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) last Saturday, Cabrera said these agencies are directly factored in the Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement, or NICRA, which is reviewed by the Interior Business Center of the Department of the Interior.

The designation of indirect cost reimbursements is among the amendments Cabrera recommended for House Bill 23-56 that the House of Representatives believes will address the CNMI government's financial deficit.

The bill, which the House unanimously passed last June, seeks to use the remaining 60% of indirect cost revenue or reimbursement by fiscal year collected for each grant.

Rep. Blas Jonathan T. Attao (Ind-Saipan), who is the principal author of the bill, stated that indirect cost reimbursements from grants provide a source of money for paying down the CNMI's budget deficit.

**A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com**

# Kilili says CNMI agencies awarded $2.7M grants

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Different agencies in the CNMI have been awarded $2.7 million in total grants, according to Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP).

Sablan disclosed in his e-kilili newsletter over the weekend, that the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Victims of Crime announced on Wednesday that Karidat Social Services will be receiving $700,909 to help victims of labor and sex trafficking in the Marianas.

He said the funding will enhance Karidat's capacity to provide victim-centered and trauma-informed services to meet needs of pre-certified trafficking victims on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Karidat was also awarded $466,495 this week by the Transitional Housing Assistance Grants for Victims of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault and Stalking Solicitation program, as authorized by the Violence Against Women's Act.

Sablan said the funds will help victims who are homeless or in need of housing assistance.

He said Karidat will provide homes across throughout the Marianas to 20 survivors through private landlord housing units.

The delegate said it was announced on Wednesday the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. will be receiving $1,058,233 through the Harold Rogers Prescription Drug Monitoring Program.

He said CHCC will use this award to monitor prescriptions for opioids and other pharmaceutically-controlled medications, with the goal of preventing misuse.

The Commonwealth's Criminal Justice Planning Agency received $20,486 to encourage students' interest in becoming attorneys, federal public defenders, and local/state prosecutors.

Sablan said the U.S. Bureau of Justice Assistance reported to the congressional office about the grant on Thursday.

He said the CNMI Judiciary, along with Westcare Pacific Islands Inc., a subrecipient and a mental health agency, has been awarded $536,481, the U.S. Bureau of Justice Assistance announced on Tuesday.

Sablan said the Justice and Mental Health Collaboration grant will allow the Judiciary to expand its Mental Health Court docket to help those at risk of mental health disorder navigate the judicial system. He said the 36-month project is expected to serve about 15 individuals.

## CNMI

*From page 1*

in Garapan yesterday to sign a proclamation designating October as the CNMI Humanities Month.

Joining Palacios, Apatang, and the NMHC were members and staff representing the museum, the House of Representatives, the Marianas Visitors Authority, American Memorial Park, the Department of Corrections, and the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, as well as many committed members of the community.

This year's theme is "Strengthening Our Shared Heritage." The proclamation states that this month's recognition serves as a "call for the people of the Marianas to celebrate the many ways in which we have charted and preserved our own history and the spaces that allow our indigenous and diverse cultures to enrich our daily lives." The proclamation also recognized the NMHC as a catalyst in this endeavor.

In his remarks, NMHC executive director Leo Pangelinan said this month's theme implies in a sense "that we all have something inherited that we all share." He used as an example the public parks, beaches, and memorials that have been maintained over the course of time. "The theme can be a call to regenerate these resources so that we can continue to enjoy the spaces for ourselves and for the next seven generations to come," he added.

Pangelinan also extended his thanks to the NMI Museum and commended their work, but also pointed out that "unfortunately our museum has been on a holding pattern, struggling to maintain a snapshot of our shared heritage." He said he does not want to take anything away from the museum, but his point is to stress that "…our cultural institutions need strengthening. They need caring and committed members of our community to bring attention to these things that we are missing and take action to protect and improve what we have."

NMHC board member and vice chair Gretchen Smith noted that, even as a Filipino-American by blood, being raised on the island gave her shared experiences and personal history in the CNMI. "…Our shared heritage is not a single set of events. No. It is a culmination of individual life histories that have led us to this very point in time. To be sure, the history of the indigenous peoples of the Marianas is a sharply unique experience to be respected. In fact, that shared heritage among the indigenous peoples opens a window from the past, and into the future."

**A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com**

## ASIANA

*From page 1*

manager, Asiana will be suspending its flights to Saipan for the entire month of November before resuming flights in December.

"The last flight will be on Oct. 29, 2023, and the flights will resume on Dec. 20, 2023" he said.

One of the reasons for that is CPA's recent fee increases, Hwang said.

During a previous Marianas Visitors Authority board meeting, *Saipan Tribune* learned that it would cost airlines about $3,000 more to land at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, now that CPA's 90% increase in landing fees has taken effect.

"There is a low demand at this time. It's typically low season at this time, but now bookings are much lower than expected so we had to suspend flights for a while. CPA's increase in fees has also affected our decision," Hwang said.

Last month, CPA board members unanimously voted to adopt a 90% increase in landing fees for both the Saipan airport's main terminal and the commuter terminals for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

In addition, the CPA board also adopted a 79% increase in its current terminal rental rate for both at the Saipan airport's main terminal and for the commuter terminals for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

With the newly adopted budget, the CPA terminal rental rates for the Saipan International Airport's main terminal goes up from $19.49 per square foot to $34.92. Meanwhile, the terminal rental rates for all CNMI commuter terminals is now up from $7.79 to $13.97.

As for landing fees, with the 90% increase, CPA will now be charging international airline carriers $15.25 per thousand lbs of certified maximum gross landing weight of the aircraft; they were previously being charged $8.01. As for CNMI commuter terminals, the 90% increase would bring landing fees up from $4.81 to $9.15.

Aside from the increase in rates, the CPA board also adopted an eight-hour cut for all CPA employees and suspended its airline incentive program.

In addition, CPA also increased the current parking rate at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport parking lot.

All these changes took effect on Oct. 1, 2023.

## CPA

*From page 1*

After officially receiving CPA's offer for the position, Concepcion informed the board that he is declining the offer.

"I am honored and humbled to be offered the position. … With my nearly 10-year background in the airline industry, my understanding of airport operations, my keen knowledge of the complexities involved when dealing with other airlines, ground handlers, tour operators, travel agencies, hoteliers, retailers, transportation companies, national, state and local government agencies, foreign government officials, and many other travel industry stakeholders, combined with my years of experience at the helm of the Marianas Visitors Authority, I know I would've made a perfect fit. I am honored that the interview committee made up of four industry professionals rated me highest out of nine competing candidates. However, after careful consideration, I have decided to decline the offer," Concepcion said in a statement yesterday.

Still, Concepcion said he looks forward to continuing to work with CPA at the helm of MVA.

"I extend my sincere gratitude to the CPA board of directors and the interview panel for their time and effort, and vote of confidence. I wish the best for the CPA board, management, and staff as they continue the good work of moving the agency forward. The missions of the MVA and CPA complement each other, so I look forward to continuing our partnership," he said.

In a statement from CPA board chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds, she said it is unfortunate that Concepcion turned down the offer—believing that his decision was politically influenced—as it would have been a great opportunity for him, CPA, and the CNMI community.

"It's unfortunate that after having been summoned by the governor, Chris felt it necessary to rescind his acceptance of the offer to start a new challenging opportunity given to him by industry stakeholders. This would have been a great opportunity for him to grow professionally and develop his leadership skills while serving the community. I fully empathize with his position and that of many young, educated, and highly qualified CNMI talents whose contributions are either dismissed altogether or put in a difficult situation such as this because of politics. It's one of the reasons why the CNMI suffers from a brain drain. With that being said, there are other equally qualified individuals with credentials who have been also recommended to the board and are being considered for the position," she said.

Last week, following heated argument among CPA board members during the deliberation process to name a new executive director, the board voted 5-1 (due to a recusal) to offer the position to Concepcion.

The row came about after CPA board member Antonio Cabrera—who has also applied for the executive director position—objected to the selection of Concepcion, arguing that the new executive director should be "very qualified," implying that Concepcion's 10-year experience in the airline industry was not enough.

## PALACIOS

*From page 1*

"The last I heard is that they're pretty close," the governor said.

E-Land had sued DPL because the Korean conglomerate was in a legal tussle with Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC over the property. The casino developer was unable to finalize the lease. DPL was reportedly planning to issue a new request for proposal, but it went to litigation. Palacios said the attorney general recommended that they go into a settlement and just renegotiate with E-Land.

"So that's in the process right now," Palacios said.

It will be recalled that DPL first issued a notice of award for the lease of the property to E-Land in March 2021. In June 2021, then-DPL secretary Sixto Igisomar rescinded the award and cancelled the request for proposal, saying it would be re-issued.

Igisomar stated that after DPL submitted the draft lease to the Office of the Attorney General for review for legal sufficiency, the OAG rejected it, stating that E-Land's proposal should not have been considered because it was not compliant with the minimum rental rates set by regulation.

In July 2021, E-Land sued DPL and Igisomar, seeking a Superior Court's judgment that would declare DPL's decision to rescind the notice awarding E-Land the lease agreement as improper.

E-Land Group owns and operates Kensington Hotel Saipan, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, and Coral Ocean Resort.

Recently, the South Korean conglomerate opened OHAS Boulangerie & Café in Garapan.

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79 YEARS ANNIVERSARY

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## Feature of the Month – SWEET BREAD ..... $1.79

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### Week 1 (Oct. 1-7, 2023)

PAN TUBA ..... **$3.79**
PULLMAN BREAD ..... **$1.79**

CAKE OF THE WEEK – TROPICAL SURPRISE

| 5" Round | 8" Round | 8x12 Sheet | 12x16 Sheet | 16x24 Sheet |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **$24.79** | **$29.79** | **$56.79** | **$99.79** | **$163.79** |

TAN MARAKITA'S CAFÉ – Breakfast Special **$7.79**
Fried rice, 2 pcs. Portuguese sausage, and 1 egg any style.

8oz Cup of Soup **$0.79**

### Week 2 (Oct. 8-14, 2023)

BLUEBERRY CREAM CHEESE LOG ..... **$2.79**
PAN DE SAL ..... **$1.79**

CAKE OF THE WEEK – CHOCOLATE

| 5" Round | 8" Round | 8x12 Sheet | 12x16 Sheet | 16x24 Sheet |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **$16.79** | **$26.79** | **$28.79** | **$52.79** | **$89.79** |

TAN MARAKITA'S CAFÉ – Breakfast Special **$7.79**
2 Blueberry pancakes and 1 pc bacon.

8oz Cup of Soup **$0.79**

### Week 3 (Oct. 15-21, 2023)

COCONUT MACAROONS ..... **$1.79**
ROSKU ..... **$4.79**

CAKE OF THE WEEK – OREO DARK CHOCOLATE

| 5" Round | 8" Round | 8x12 Sheet | 12x16 Sheet | 16x24 Sheet |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **$20.79** | **$31.79** | **$55.79** | **$89.79** | **$168.79** |

TAN MARAKITA'S CAFÉ – Breakfast Special **$7.79**
Kimchi fried rice, 1 pc Spam and 1 egg any style.

8oz Cup of Soup **$0.79**

### Week 4 (Oct. 22-28, 2023)

ROSKETTI ..... **$3.79**
CHAMORRO CAKE ..... **$4.79**

CAKE OF THE WEEK – VELVET

| 5" Round | 8" Round | 8x12 Sheet | 12x16 Sheet | 16x24 Sheet |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **$22.79** | **$29.79** | **$47.79** | **$87.79** | **$149.79** |

TAN MARAKITA'S CAFÉ – Breakfast Special **$7.79**
Waffles and 1 pc fried chicken.

8oz Cup of Soup **$0.79**

### Week 5 (Oct. 24-Nov. 4, 2023)

SPONGE CAKE ..... **$4.79**
COOKIES (CHAMORRO, BUTTER, CHOCOLATE, CHOCOLATE CHIP 10 CT) ..... **$3.79**

CAKE OF THE WEEK - STRAWBERRY

| 5" Round | 8" Round | 8x12 Sheet | 12x16 Sheet | 16x24 Sheet |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **$22.79** | **$29.79** | **$47.79** | **$87.79** | **$149.79** |

TAN MARAKITA'S CAFÉ – Breakfast Special **$7.79**
Breakfast burrito with orange slices.

8oz Cup of Soup **$0.79**

**1** With every one-time purchase of **$15.00** from Tan Marakita's Café will entitle you to receive a ticket good towards a **FREE Cup of Coffee** or **Soft Drink**.

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# NMPASI celebrates 30th anniversary with Trivia Night

The Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc. celebrated its 30th year as the CNMI's state designated disability rights agency. The celebration took place at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan in Garapan and featured Trivia Night outreach event.

Thirteen teams participated and the contestants were challenged with answering trivia questions in five categories—disability law, history, sports, entertainment, and events occurring in 1993. Questions throughout each round also featured facts about landmark disability rights events and recognition of people with disabilities who have impacted our society.

NMPASI

The Autism Society of the CNMI topped Trivia Night held during the 30th anniversary celebration of the Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc. last Sept. 30 at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan in Garapan.

NMPASI

Busch Knights took third place in the NMPASI Trivia Night competition.

The Autism Society of the CNMI topped the Trivia Night competition followed by Team 80HD, with Busch Knights taking third place.

Door prizes were also raffled during the intermission following each round. NMPASI would like to thank the following businesses and agencies for their kind donations in support of the event: SP Dancoe and Associates, Triple J Saipan, Crowne Plaza Resort, Tinian DFEMS, Tinian Diamond Hotel, Monika Diaz, Kailana Diaz, Pacific Saipan-One Pacific Distributors, R&M Printers, Calvo's Select Care, PHI Pharmacy, Saipan World Resort, K-Amusement Corp. (TIQ), Asin's Fresh Cater & Grub, National Office Supply, D&Q International Distributors, Hardt Eye Clinic, Latte Built, Joeten Motors Co., Wild Bill's Bar & Grill, and Saipan Stevedore Co.

NMPASI would like to also thank the teams who supported the event: Team Advocacy, the Wanna-bes, Team 80HD, Team TIQ, Let's Get Trivical, the Eagles, Team Paradise, the Busch Knights, Team Na'bali, the Pill-Lords, the Brainiacs, Rob's Posse, Team Shenanigans, and the Autism Society of the CNMI.

"We thank the community for their continued support as we strive to protect the rights of persons with disabilities in the CNMI in the years to come. We believe, though we have made great strides in making our community aware of issues related to the needs of individuals with disabilities, that there is much more to be done," said NMPASI executive director Greg Borja. ***(PR)***

NMPASI

Team 80HD won second place in the NMPASI Trivia Night competition.

ROBERT T. TORRES, ESQ.
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 500730 CK
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: 234-7859
Fax: 234-5750

Attorney for Hermina Mettao

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

| | |
|---|---|
| **IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF:** | **Civil Action No. 23-0105** |
| **ROSA LISUA MOTEISOU** **Decedent.** | **AMENDED NOTICE OF HEARING AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS** |
| | **DATE:** October 26, 2023 **TIME:** 10:00 a.m. **JUDGE:** Joseph N. Camacho |

**TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS, CLAIMANTS, OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE ROSA LISUA MOTEISOU OR HER ESTATE**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that Heir **HERMINA METTAO** by and through her attorney of record, Robert T. Torres, filed an unopposed Motion to Substitute Administratrix for the Estate of Rosa Lisua Moteisou. The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("NMHC") counsel, Micheal A. White does not oppose this substitution. The proposed substitute Administratrix is **HERMINA METTAO**. The Attorney for Hermina Mettao is Robert T. Torres, whose address is 5960 Plata Drive P.O. Box 500730, Saipan MP 96950.

The hearing on the Petition is scheduled to be heard on the date and at the time set forth above at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All interested persons or entities should appear at this hearing.

Dated this 22nd day of September 2023.

/s/_____
**Clerk of Court/Deputy Clerk of Court**

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

### Karidat reopened services Monday

Karidat Social Services reopened all services last Monday, Oct. 2, 2023, at its location in Dandan on the ground floor of the three-story blue building (on the left, coming from San Vicente) just past the Ben Ki Store and Lucky De Market on Dandan Road.

IKaridat Social Services' new service hours are from 8am to 4am.

"We thank you for your patience and understanding throughout our transition to our new location and we look forward to continuing our services to the community," Karidat said in a statement. ***(PR)***

### NMPASI closed this week

The Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc. would like to inform the general public that its office will be closed the week of Oct. 2-6, 2023.

NMPASI will reopen at its location in the Marianas Business Plaza, Room 505 on Oct. 10, 2023. For assistance, contact (670) 235-7273. ***(PR)***

### JKPL calls on all trick-or-treaters

It's that time of the year and the Friends of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, Northern Marianas Library Association, and all community partners invite everyone to join them for the 10th Annual Community Halloween Trunk-Or-Treat event.

Held every year, this popular free public event helps to promote and strengthen community partnership and engagement, fosters family bonding, and provides families with an alternative activity to trick-or-treating door-to-door. This spooktacular event is scheduled for Oct. 31, 2023 from 3:30pm to 6:30pm at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library parking lot in Susupe.

Since 2012, thousands of children and adults have enjoyed hours of fun dressing up in spooktacular costumes and trick-or-treating at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library parking lot. This year, the JKPL will have monetary prizes for the Best Family Halloween Costume Contest. Registration is required to participate in the costume contest. ***(PR)***

### NAP to issue benefits through walk-in service

The CNMI Nutrition Assistance Program will be distributing October 2023 benefits through a walk-in service at their office location in As Lito. The drive-up option is no longer available. This means eligible households will be issued their benefits inside the Benefits Issuance and Claims Accountability Unit Office on the first floor on their scheduled date.

Please be reminded that due to the increased number of NAP benefit cases, we will be accommodating recipients scheduled on assigned dates.

Issuance Schedule for Saipan will be on the following dates from 8am to 3pm:

- Oct. 2, 2023, Monday—case records ending with "1"
- Oct. 3, 2023, Tuesday—case records ending with "2"
- Oct. 4, 2023, Wednesday—case records ending with "3"
- Oct. 5, 2023, Thursday—case records ending with "4"
- Oct. 6, 2023, Friday—case records ending with "5"
- Oct. 10, 2023, Tuesday—case records ending with "6"
- Oct. 11, 2023, Wednesday—case records ending with "7"
- Oct. 12, 2023, Thursday—case records ending with "8"
- Oct. 13, 2023, Friday—case records ending with "9"
- Oct. 16, 2023, Monday—case records ending with "0"
- Oct. 17, 2023, Tuesday—for households who missed their allotted schedule or were unable to pick up their benefits.

For inquiries, please contact the NAP office at 237-2800. ***(PR)***

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**DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES**
**CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID**
**ITB NO.: ITB23-OGM-42300107**

**SUBMISSION DATE: OCTOBER 20, 2023 TIME: 09:00 A.M.**

**"PURCHASE OF ONE (1) LIGHT RESCUE UTILITY TRUCK FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY, SAIPAN"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED ON THE MUNIS VENDOR SELF SERVICE PORTAL (https://selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/) OR AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT BLDG NO. 12552, ANATAHAN DRIVE, CAPTIOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

**QUESTIONS** REGARDING THIS ITB CAN BE MADE TO THE OFFICE OF GRANTS MANAGEMENT & STATE CLEARINGHOUSE BY OCTOBER 06, 2023 TO MR. EPIPHANIO E. CABRERA JR, VIA EMAIL AT epi.cabrera@gov.mp

**THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.**

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

**/S/ EPIPHANIO E. CABRERA, JR.**
**ADMINISTRATOR, OGM**

**/S/ BRIEN S. NICHOLAS JR.**
**ACTING DIRECTOR, PS**

NMC

Northern Marianas College-School of Business student Joshua Villagomez performed a Chamorro bendision (blessing) to kick off the event.

# NMC celebrates AANAPISI Week

Northern Marianas College students, faculty, staff, and the community gathered to celebrate Pacific Islander Cultural Night at Mango Terrace as part of the 16th anniversary of the establishment of Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions and commemorating our unique cultural heritage in the Pacific.

This event showcased the beauty of our islands as we "color the world with cultural hues of the Marianas."

The celebration highlighted island cultures in Micronesia and the arts of the Marianas, as well as featured live performances, local favorites from food vendors, and cultural crafts from local entrepreneurs. ***(PR)***

NMC

NMC alumnus Kui Lee and NMC adjunct instructor Larry Lee of Da Kine perform island music.

NMC

NMC students register for the event with Project PROA Navigators.

NMC

NMC students pose for a group photo featuring traditional Chamorro and Marshallese attire.

Special guest performers Pio Nogis (former Project PROA Navigator) and Francis Peter perform island music to conclude the event.

NMC

It's not a Pacific Islander Cultural Night without an open dance floor, as ASNMC vice president Mary-Jo Camacho and first-year NMC student Kinova Rufes dressed in traditional Chuukese and Pohnpeian danced to conclude Cultural Night.

NMC

The NMC-Cooperative Research, Extension, and Education Services poses for a group photo in front of their booth, demonstrating a dish using a locally grown chaya spinach plant.

NMC

NMC president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero poses with NMC students and the team of Project PROA at the registration table.

# Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXXIII, Issue No. 197

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mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

## EDITORIAL

# Dianne Feinstein was a giant in Congress. She won't easily be replaced

With the passing of Sen. Dianne Feinstein, California has lost its trailblazing senior senator and a giant in state and national politics. She was the rare pragmatic moderate in Congress, embodying the cordiality and cooperation from an earlier, more civil era in Washington. Politics will be poorer for her absence.

We didn't always agree with Feinstein's votes or priorities during her three decades in the Senate. But we've respected her approach to legislating and her deep commitment to public service. The remembrances pouring out Friday illustrate Feinstein's values: integrity, hard work, courtesy and respect.

Feinstein's long career had many firsts, including being California's first female senator and the longest-serving woman in the Senate. At a time when politicians are judged for their sound bites, Feinstein, 90, was a lawmaker of substance. Deliberate and detail-minded, she was willing to spend the years it sometimes takes to pass complicated policies.

Feinstein was at the center of so many issues important to Californians. A champion for environmental preservation, she helped create Death Valley and Joshua Tree national parks, protecting millions of acres of desert habitat. As mayor of San Francisco, she led the city during the AIDS epidemic and remained a steadfast advocate over the years for LGBTQ+ rights and anti-discrimination laws. She championed the Violence Against Women Act, abortion rights and access to reproductive healthcare.

She wrote the 1994 ban on military-style assault weapons that drove down crime committed with them, until the law sunsetted in 2004. She continued trying to pass another ban after repeated mass shootings made the case for restrictions on high-power and high-capacity firearms. But by then, Capitol Hill had become captivated by the National Rifle Association and other gun rights advocates, and Feinstein's legislation couldn't get traction.

Feinstein was an old-school stateswoman who was grounded in the reality of what was politically possible, which frustrated many California voters who have pushed for a more ambitious agenda on climate change and immigration reform, among other issues.

Increasingly, Feinstein seemed out of step with the political climate in California and in the Capitol. Amid declining health and questions about her mental acuity, there were calls for her to resign. Instead she said she would retire after the 2024 election. Feinstein died at her home in Washington, D.C., on the eve of a possible government shutdown driven by partisan showmanship and obstruction—the very things she worked against as a senator.

There will be much opining in the coming days on whom Gov. Gavin Newsom should appoint to fill Feinstein's seat until her term ends. But for now, it's appropriate to focus on the woman and the legacy she leaves behind.

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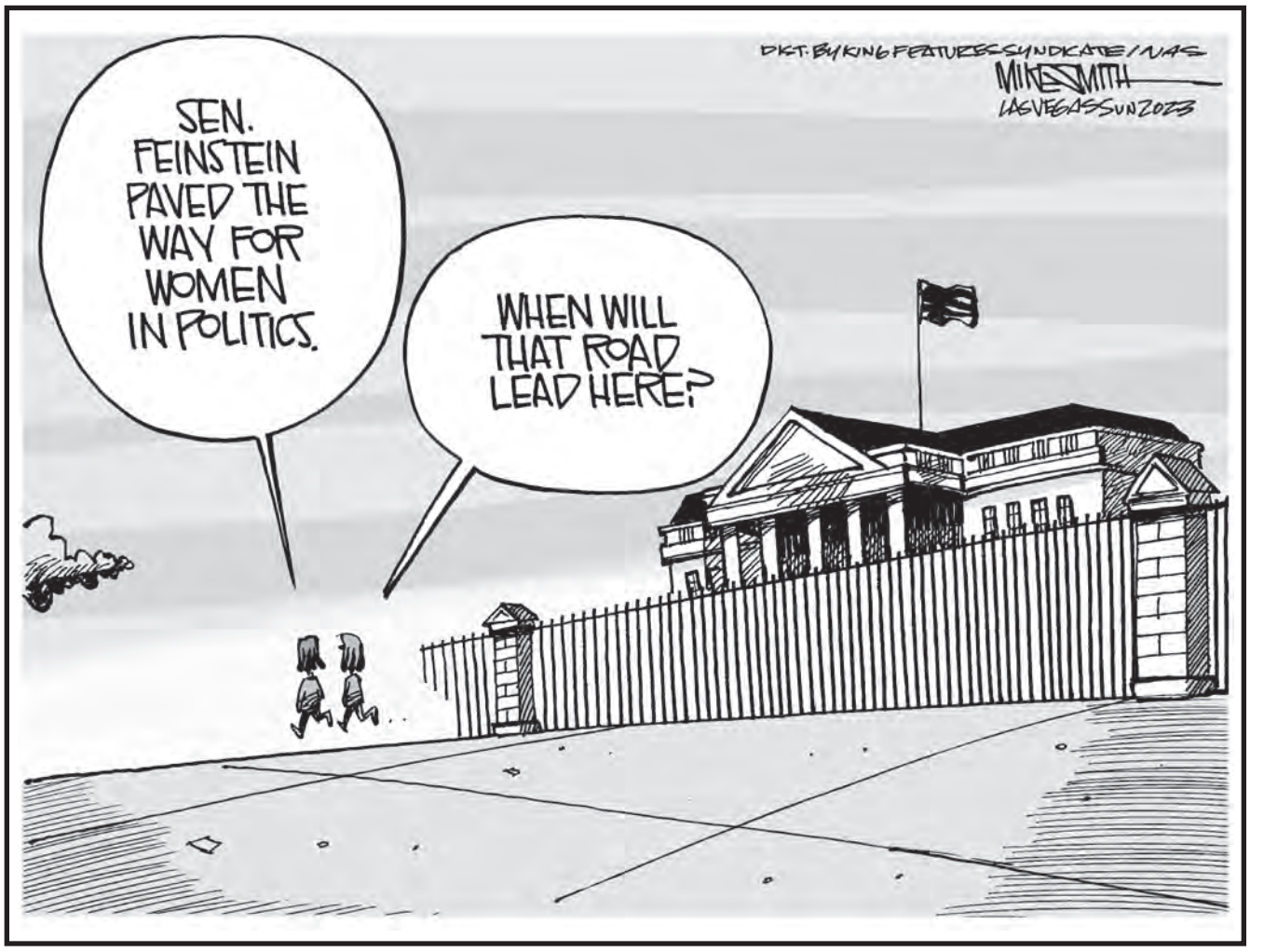
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MIKE SMITH
LAS VEGAS SUN 2023
SEN. FEINSTEIN PAVED THE WAY FOR WOMEN IN POLITICS.
WHEN WILL THAT ROAD LEAD HERE?

# I spent 22 years in prison for a crime that never happened. That's not even the worst part

**By JERMAINE HUDSON**
LOS ANGELES TIMES

I was 22 when I was convicted in March 2000 of armed robbery by a non-unanimous jury in New Orleans. The crime never happened. Yet I was sentenced to 99 years without the possibility of parole, and I would go on to serve nearly 22 years in prison before I was exonerated.

My accuser was a young man who lied about some missing money that he had spent on drugs and told his father that he was robbed at gunpoint. His father called the police. When police eventually showed the young man a photographic lineup, he picked my face. That's all it took.

At my trial, two jurors voted for acquittal, but 10 found me guilty and in Louisiana that 10-to-2 verdict was enough for a conviction.

I was sent to Angola Prison, a former plantation turned into the largest prison in Louisiana. I had to leave my mother, my two daughters and seven siblings behind. I knew the moment I stepped foot at Angola that the journey ahead of me would be hard and painful. I kept fighting my case, but every appeal, every petition was denied.

The non-unanimous conviction that sent me to prison was only possible in two states — Oregon and Louisiana.

Louisiana in 1898 held a constitutional convention that was convened for the explicit purpose of "establishing the supremacy of the white race." During that convention, Louisiana lawmakers established non-unanimous juries, so that they could make sure that Black people on a jury were silenced. Louisiana's Daily Picayune at the time claimed that Black people on a jury would always try to prevent white people from convicting Black people, and that allowing convictions with less than unanimous verdicts would be a less violent option than lynching. And so, for over a century Louisiana's non-unanimous jury scheme was enshrined in the Louisiana Constitution.

Twenty years after my trial, the U.S. Supreme Court in 2020, in Ramos v. Louisiana, found the non-unanimous jury scheme to be unconstitutional. Justice Brett Kavanaugh declared that it was "thoroughly racist in its origins and has continuing racially discriminatory effects." After that decision, the Promise of Justice Initiative, a criminal justice reform organization, filed a post-conviction relief application on my behalf seeking that my conviction be overturned and I be given a new trial.

Jason Williams, the Orleans Parish district attorney, made it a promise of his campaign to look at all cases with people convicted by non-unanimous juries. Mine was one of them. I had worked out a plea deal and was preparing for release when I received a call informing me that the person who had accused me of the robbery all those years ago had come forward and confessed he had made the whole thing up. I was going to be exonerated.

I learned that the man who had identified me as his robber was a kid addicted to drugs who was too scared to tell his daddy he had spent his whole paycheck on drugs. The truth is, I didn't feel angry at him. He could have gone to his grave with this secret. I thanked him for finally coming forward.

But I would not have been convicted with only 10 jurors voting to convict anywhere else but in Louisiana and Oregon.

Even before the Supreme Court declared non-unanimous juries unconstitutional, Louisiana voters agreed that non-unanimous juries were a Jim Crow relic and put an end to this scheme moving forward. Any conviction after Jan. 1, 2019, in Louisiana had to be unanimous.

But today, Louisiana remains as the only state where people who were convicted by non-unanimous juries prior to 2019 remain incarcerated without a form of relief. A year after the Ramos decision, the Supreme Court decided to leave it up to Louisiana and Oregon to decide what to do with people who were already sitting in prison with these unconstitutional convictions.

The Louisiana Legislature has refused to take action. The Louisiana Supreme Court said it wasn't its job to decide, and passed the question back to the Legislature. District attorneys could use their power to review these cases and allow post-conviction deals, as D.A. Williams in Orleans Parish was willing to do in my case. But district attorneys in other parts of the state refuse to do so, and fight against any efforts for legislative action.

The story is so different from Oregon, where the Oregon Supreme Court found that the only way to correct this injustice was to grant new trials to all people unconstitutionally incarcerated by a non-unanimous verdict. It's long past time for Louisiana do the same.

I left friends in prison who were in my situation but whose cases have not been heard. I do what I can to support them from outside. I remain hopeful that one day they will all receive justice and our state will have the courage to right this shameful wrong.

*Jermaine Hudson is an advocate for criminal justice reform from New Orleans.*

**EDITORIAL POLICY** Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

# Bunching COVID-19, the flu and RSV as a 'tripledemic' is misleading

**By SHELDON H. JACOBSON**
Chicago Tribune

*Sheldon H. Jacobson, Ph.D., is a founder professor in computer science at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. A data scientist, he applies his expertise in data-driven risk-based decision-making to evaluate and inform public policy.*

The term "tripledemic" is being used to express the concerns about the collective spread of COVID-19, influenza and the respiratory syncytial virus, or RSV, during this fall and winter. Yet each of these infectious diseases has their own risk profile. Placing them under the same epidemic umbrella may inadvertently overstate the impending dangers—perhaps to the point of crying wolf when a calmer descriptor would be more beneficial and appropriate.

The seasonal flu has a long history. A typical season runs from October through early spring. Vaccines are available that provide some protection against this virus. The challenge is predicting about six months in advance which strains will be circulating during flu season. This is the lead time needed to produce the vaccines using an egg-based process, the most common method used today. Each year, the vaccine is typically between 40% and 60% effective across the entire population.

Seasonal flu typically affects the very young and those older than 65 most severely. These groups are targeted for vaccination, though everyone provides communal benefit from being vaccinated. The general rule is that when fewer people become infected, even those with little personal risk, there are fewer opportunities for the disease to spread those who are at the most risk of severe cases and poor outcomes.

COVID-19 has been around since at least March 2020. It has similar symptoms to those of seasonal flu, though its impact at the population level is much more severe. Those older than 65 are at the highest risk of poor outcomes. Vaccines are available that have been effective in reducing the risk of severe disease. An updated vaccine was just launched that targets an omicron subvariant.

RSV is a common respiratory virus, first identified in 1956. It typically causes mild symptoms, similar to those of the common cold. Much like influenza, for the young and those older than 65, the disease can be severe. Vaccines are available to protect against RSV, targeted at infants and those older than 60.

The majority of the population is not at high risk of severe illness from the seasonal flu and RSV. The same can be said about COVID-19, though its impact is more variable and generally more severe and deadly than the others. However, all these viruses can produce severe disease in those with other health conditions, such as those who are immunocompromised or have asthma.

Though all three viruses will circulate during the fall and winter, bunching them together as a "tripledemic" is misleading. Though the term makes for a good sound bite, it may foment fear that overstates the actual population risk.

The two age-based groups that carry the highest risks of poor outcomes continue to be the very young and the elderly. Offering them the best available protections, such as vaccination, should be a top priority.

In general, RSV poses little risk to most people.

The seasonal flu is meticulously tracked by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and well understood. The strain mutations that occur through antigenic drift and shift make it an ongoing surveillance priority for the CDC. Such mutations are one reason why the vaccines must be updated and annual vaccination offers population benefits. The seasonal flu and its vaccines are generally understood and, hence, are highly unlikely to provide any surprises this year.

The same holds true for RSV. The only addition is the recently approved vaccines for the elderly and the very young. Including RSV in the "tripledemic" may provide more awareness of the new vaccines.

COVID-19 is the viral wild card in the group. New variants are constantly and rapidly emerging. What was dominant six months ago may no longer be circulating. The good news is that all the circulating variants are within the omicron lineage. This give some hope that the new government-approved COVID-19 vaccine will be effective across a spectrum of omicron variants, including those that may emerge over the next several months.

COVID-19 stands out among the three viruses as posing the greatest risk across the widest swath of the population, as evidenced by the uptick in hospitalizations across the country over the past six months. Also, if a new mutation emerges that produces higher rates of poor outcomes, the current mitigation strategies may need to be reevaluated.

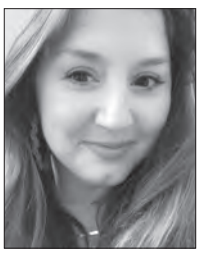
Yes, three viruses will be circulating this virus season. Yes, hospitalization may remain high due to the three viruses, as the CDC predicts. Yet labeling them as a "tripledemic" may be more like crying wolf than communicating what may be coming.

If public health authorities wish to engender trust in Americans and maintain credibility, presenting risks in a less sensational manner will go a long way. Catchy terms such as "tripledemic" may be counterproductive from a communication point of view; they may undermine the perception of public health and its mission to protect and improve people's health.

There is value in being prepared. There is no value in amplifying possible risks with a fear-inducing term.

# Where have all the good men gone? Women still need you

**By NICOLE RUSSELL**
Fort Worth Star-Telegram



In our feminist-focused society, where efforts to create legal and societal gender parity have been mostly successful, it's easy to forget about the men. After all, thanks to the patriarchy, they've been doing fine for ages.

Except now, they're really not.

Pew Research confirms that more than 60% of young men are single, nearly twice the rate of unattached young women. Three of every 10 U.S. adults aren't in a relationship of any kind, married, dating, or engaged. This has spread to all U.S. adults; 34 percent of women and 63 percent of men are single. The number of sexually active Americans is also at a 30-year low.

As much as sex is an indicator for most of being in a healthy relationship, that's bad news. Worst of all? Half of single men aren't even looking for a relationship.

"Men in their 20s are more likely than women in their 20s to be romantically uninvolved, sexually dormant, friendless and lonely," explained Daniel De Visé in a piece at The Hill. "They stand at the vanguard of an epidemic of declining marriage, sexuality and relationships that afflicts all of young America."

People aren't finding love the way they used to, and that could have something to do with the statistics. Online dating is popular. Almost a quarter of the population uses it and men far outnumber women on the apps. Two in every five couples have met online and a small share—almost 15%—have had a relationship lasting at least a year with a person they met online.

However, for all its conveniences, online dating has done two things for men that have hurt them and contributed to their growing elusiveness. One, the "swipe culture" has let men continue to seek brief, sexual encounters rather than enduring romantic relationships. Two, online dating is really fantastic for only the top few men. You know, the top 5% of men who rate high in attractiveness, height and income, have the best shot at most of the women. Men of average appearance, height and income struggle—and often wind up alone.

Even though the pandemic has been over for a while, it seems like some people haven't stopped hibernating, and it's taking a toll on men's health. Our men are increasingly lonely and unhappy. Young men commit suicide at four times the rate of young women.

Another reason men may be rejecting even trying to find love is that they don't really need women, or may not feel like they do, because of the ubiquitousness of online porn.

A majority (57%) of men ages 30-49 report having watched pornography in the past month. Regular porn use distorts real-life relationships which require effort, communication, consistency, and more to remain healthy. Porn is a substitute for real sex with a real-life woman, which also requires more effort than logging onto a website. If porn addicts are married or in a relationship, they often feel shame or embarrassment about their amount of porn viewing and so they hide it. This discovery leads to an even more fractured relationship.

OnlyFans is a similar substitute, and perhaps worse in the sense that many men report turning to these paid accounts not just for titillation or sex but for a quasi-relationship. While some statistics show that more married than single men are users on OnlyFans, it's clear both are seeking the site to satiate emotional or sexual needs they purport aren't being filled.

Women, on the other hand, seem to be struggling far less. Data shows unmarried, childless women are the "happiest subgroup in the population." Women now collect nearly 60 percent of bachelor's degrees, and pay parity is increasing.

This shift in the dynamic in gender parity has played a role, though it's hard to tell how much, and which came first: Did women start to out-achieve men and men couldn't keep up so they gave up? Did men get addicted to porn and give up relationships so then women just moved up in the world without them?

Feminism has produced some great things in terms of the legal and societal parity women deserve. Now, women have more job opportunities and make more money than ever. But if women have gotten to the place financially where they don't think they need a man, this mindset could be driving men out of the dating marketplace. This isn't to wholly blame women at all.

Men also seem to be struggling to respond to this new generation of accomplished, high-achieving, high-earning women and, rather than up their own "game," increase their value, embrace emotional maturity, and seek to still earn a woman's love and respect, they simply give in to self-loathing, self-pity, and self-sabotage.

Either way, unhappy, lonely, single men aren't good for society. Men are natural providers and protectors. They often take on the most difficult work and spearhead the toughest industries: Firefighting, law enforcement, military, manufacturing We need men to remain productive, happy, competent members of society.

Women are naturally attracted to men who demonstrate this potential and crave a relationship with this kind of healthy, mature, high-value male. But if he's sitting at home, watching porn and playing video games, numbing his desires instead of seeking a relationship or being purposeful at work, this is far less attractive.

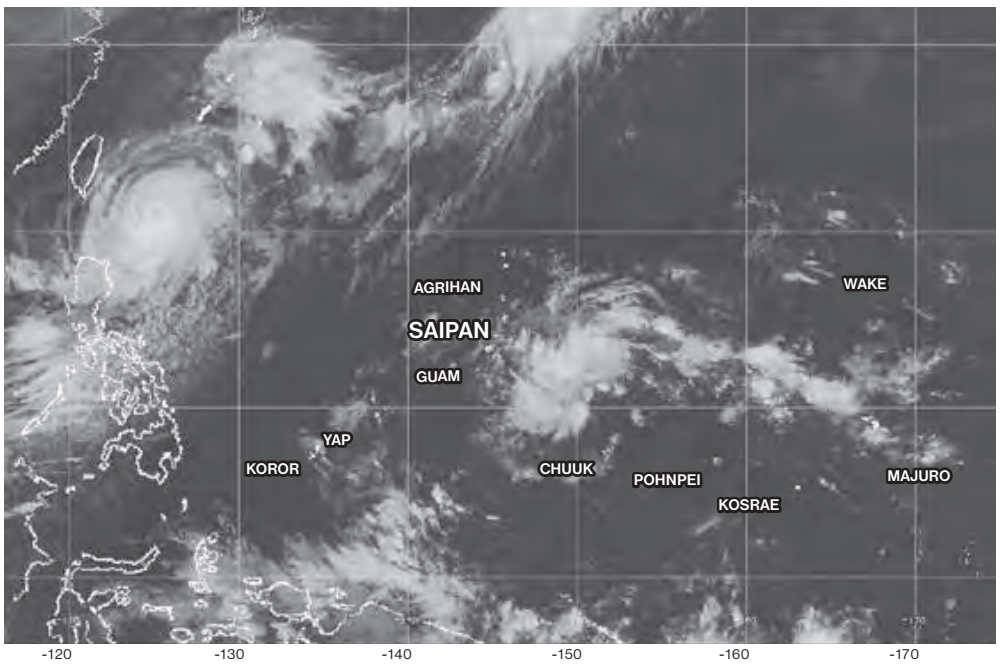
It's hard to say exactly why men aren't seeking relationships—both sexes need to take a hard look at themselves. But there are women out there seeking men who want love. Now, we need more men who want the same.

# The Weather

## 5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

| TODAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | SUNDAY |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Mostly cloudy with scattered showers. East winds around 10 to 15 mph. | Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. | Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. | Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. | Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. |
| 86° 79° | 86° 79° | 86° 79° | 86° 79° | 86° 79° |

## YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE




**PICTURE TIME: 6:29 AM, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2023**

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite showing partly cloudy skies and isolated showers over the Marianas. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are approaching the coastal waters from the east. Ipan buoy and latest altimetry passes indicating combined seas of 4 to 6 feet.

*Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/*

| MICRONESIA | ▲ ▼ °F | |
|---|---|---|
| Guam and Rota | Thunderstorm | 85° / 77° |
| Palau | Thunderstorm | 85° / 78° |
| Yap | Mostly Sunny | 86° / 80° |
| Chuuk | Thunderstorm | 86° / 80° |
| Pohnpei | Partly Cloudy | 88° / 76° |
| Kosrae | Thunderstorm | 88° / 76° |
| Majuro | Thunderstorm | 87° / 83° |

| DAY | SUNRISE | SUNSET |
|---|---|---|
| Today | 6:07 AM | 6:04 PM |
| Thursday | 6:07 AM | 6:03 PM |
| Friday | 6:07 AM | 6:03 PM |
| Saturday | 6:07 AM | 6:02 PM |
| Sunday | 6:07 AM | 6:01 PM |

| DAY | MOONRISE | MOONSET | MOONRISE |
|---|---|---|---|
| Today | - | 10:31 AM | 9:55 PM |
| Thursday | - | 11:29 AM | 10:48 PM |
| Friday | - | 12:24 PM | 11:43 PM |
| Saturday | - | 1:16 PM | - |
| Sunday | 12:37 AM | 2:02 PM | - |

| AROUND THE GLOBE | ▲ ▼ °F | |
|---|---|---|
| Auckland | Showers | 57° / 48° |
| Beijing | Sunny | 88° / 61° |
| Hong Kong | Sunny | 90° / 81° |
| Honolulu | Sunny | 87° / 77° |
| London | Mostly Cloudy | 64° / 55° |
| Los Angeles | Sunny | 74° / 55° |
| Manila | Thunderstorm | 88° / 77° |
| Melbourne | Mostly Sunny | 77° / 59° |
| Miami | Partly Cloudy | 84° / 78° |
| New York | Partly Cloudy | 81° / 72° |
| Osaka | Thunderstorm | 81° / 72° |
| Paris | Rain | 70° / 55° |
| Busan | Thunderstorm | 75° / 72° |
| Rome | Showers | 79° / 63° |
| Salem | Mostly Sunny | 93° / 69° |
| San Francisco | Sunny | 66° / 50° |
| Seoul | Showers | 79° / 68° |
| Tokyo | Partly Cloudy | 82° / 68° |
| Washington, DC | Mostly Sunny | 85° / 72° |

| TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY | FEET | |
|---|---|---|
| 4:59 AM | Low Tide | -0.13 |
| 12:10 PM | High Tide | 1.74 |
| 5:31 PM | Low Tide | 1.22 |
| 10:06 PM | High Tide | 1.71 |

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## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 1, 2023

### DEPARTURES

**SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA117 | 9:50AM | 10:30AM | Daily |

**SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA824 | 7:25AM | 9:55AM | 1, 3, 5 |

**GUAM-MANILA (MNL)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| PR 111 | 5:55AM | 7:55AM | Daily |
| UA193 | 6:55PM | 10:55PM | 2, 5 via Palau |
| UA183 | 7:20PM | 9:10PM | Daily |

**SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ626/703 | 4:20AM | 10:35PM | 1, 4, 5, 7 |
| 7C3403/2305 | 4:45AM | 10:20PM | Daily |
| UA117/183 | 9:50AM | 9:10PM | Daily via Guam |
| UA117/193 | 9:50AM | 10:55PM | 2, 5 via Guam, Palau |

**SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 7C3467 | 3:00AM | 6:40AM | Daily up to Oct 7 |
| TW308 | 3:15AM | 7:00AM | Daily |
| OZ626 | 4:20AM | 7:55AM | 1, 4, 5, 7 |
| 7C3403 | 4:45AM | 8:35AM | Daily |
| 7C3405 | 4:10PM | 7:45PM | Daily |

**SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 7C3451 | 3:20AM | 6:30AM | 1, 4, 5, 7 |

### ARRIVALS

**GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA174 | 8:00AM | 8:50AM | Daily |

**NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA825 | 9:25PM | 1:50AM+1 | 2, 4, 7 |

**MANILA (MNL)-GUAM**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| UA184 | 10:25PM | 4:25AM+1 | 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 |
| UA192 | 10:25PM | 6:10AM+1 | 2, 5 via Palau |
| PR110 | 10:30PM | 4:25AM+1 | Daily |
| UA184 | 11:50PM | 5:50AM+1 | 2, 5 |

**MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OZ702/625 | 12:05PM | 2:55AM+1 | 3, 4, 6, 7 |
| UA184/174 | 10:25PM | 8:50AM+1 | 1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam |
| UA192/174 | 10:25PM | 8:50AM+1 | 2, 5 via Palau, Guam |
| 7C2306/3406 | 11:10PM | 3:10PM+1 | Daily |
| UA184/174 | 11:50PM | 8:50AM+1 | 2, 5 via Guam |

**INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 7C3406 | 9:30AM | 3:10PM | Daily |
| TW307 | 8:30PM | 2:15AM+1 | Daily |
| OZ625 | 9:25PM | 2:55AM+1 | 3, 4, 6, 7 |
| 7C3468 | 7:35PM | 1:10AM+1 | Daily up to Oct 7 |
| 7C3404 | 10:10PM | 3:40AM+1 | Daily |

**BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 7C3452 | 9:35PM | 2:20AM+1 | 3, 4, 6, 7 |

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

## STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

### FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

**SAIPAN TO ROTA**

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1301 | 8:30 | 9:00 | Daily |
| 1302 | 11:00 | 11:30 | Mon/Wed/Fri |
| 1302 | 12:00 | 12:30 | Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun |
| 1303 | 15:30 | 16:00 | Daily |

**ROTA TO SAIPAN**

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3101 | 9:30 | 10:00 | Daily |
| 3102 | 13:00 | 13:30 | Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun |
| 3102 | 14:00 | 14:30 | Mon/Wed/Fri |
| 3103 | 16:30 | 17:00 | Daily |

**ROTA TO GUAM**

| LIGHT # | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 3401 | 12:00 | 12:30 | Mon/Wed/Fri |

**GUAM TO ROTA**

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 4301 | 13:00 | 13:30 | Mon/Wed/Fri |

**SAIPAN TO TINIAN**

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1202 | 8:00 | 8:15 | Daily |
| 1203 | 9:00 | 9:15 | Daily |
| 1204 | 10:00 | 10:15 | Daily |
| 1208 | 14:00 | 14:15 | Daily |
| 1209 | 15:00 | 15:15 | Daily |
| 1210 | 16:00 | 16:15 | Daily |
| 1211 | 17:00 | 17:15 | Daily |

**TINIAN TO SAIPAN**

| FLIGHT # | DEPARTS | ARRIVES | FREQUENCY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2102 | 8:30 | 8:45 | Daily |
| 2103 | 9:30 | 9:45 | Daily |
| 2104 | 10:30 | 10:45 | Daily |
| 2108 | 14:30 | 14:45 | Daily |
| 2109 | 15:30 | 15:45 | Daily |
| 2110 | 16:30 | 16:45 | Daily |
| 2111 | 17:30 | 17:45 | Daily |

# Business

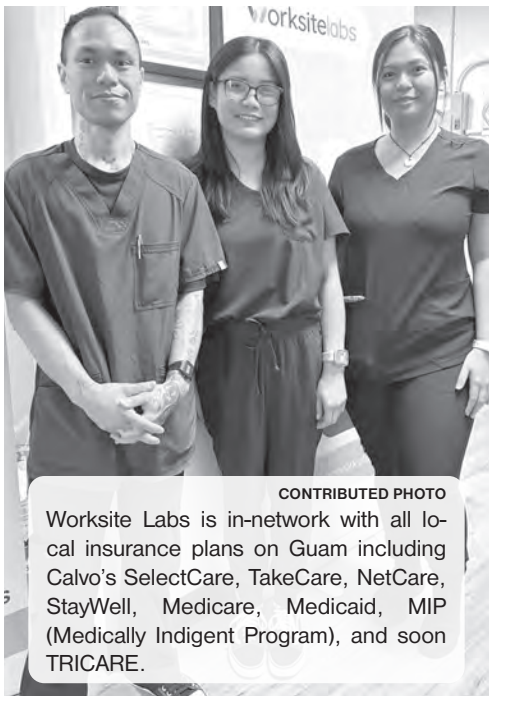
# Worksite Labs launches 2nd patient service center in Guam

**TAMUNING, Guam**—Months after opening its first location, Worksite Labs, a premier diagnostic laboratory company, opened its second patient service center in Guam at the Guam Medical Plaza in Tamuning. The new PSC is located at the main entrance of GMP immediately to the right, making it convenient for customers in the central part of the island to have access to more testing services.

Gary Frazier, founder and CEO of Worksite Labs, announced, "We are thrilled to announce the opening of our second PSC at the Guam Medical Plaza in Tamuning, situated in the heart of the island. This expansion allows us to connect even more closely with our valued customers in Guam, offering enhanced healthcare diagnostics and cutting-edge technology. By extending our presence and services, we aim to bring added convenience and choice to the residents of the central region. At Worksite Labs, we take great pride in delivering our services with warmth and a friendly approach at our patient service centers."

The company's unique and innovative decentralized laboratory model and advanced diagnostic testing capabilities deliver fast, reliable results by placing full-service labs where they're needed most and throughout the community. Worksite Labs launched its operations in Guam on June 12, 2023, with the opening of its patient service center at the Dededo Pay-Less Supermarket. Worksite Labs also supported Typhoon Mawar recovery by providing medical testing services in the community at pop-up sites at mayor's office throughout the month of June and in partnership with the Todu Guam Foundation.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Worksite Labs has opened a second patient service center in Guam at the Guam Medical Plaza in Tamuning.




CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Worksite Labs is in-network with all local insurance plans on Guam including Calvo's SelectCare, TakeCare, NetCare, StayWell, Medicare, Medicaid, MIP (Medically Indigent Program), and soon TRICARE.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Worksite Labs expanded to Guam as an opportunity to provide better access directly to where those diagnostic services are needed.

"We give our customers access to important healthcare services in the communities where they live, work, and play. Customers can walk into either of our PSCs at Guam Medical Plaza or Dededo Pay-Less with any doctors' orders or plan ahead by making their appointments online. When they arrive, they will be met by our professional and warm team of technicians who understand their needs," Frazier added. "Our customers rely on us because we deliver quick, affordable, and trusted diagnostic testing so they can make decisions about their well-being."

The company has plans to open its next PSC at the Yigo Pay-Less Supermarket in a few months and eventually more locations island-wide to better serve the island's residents. Its main lab is located at Guam Regional Medical City. Worksite Labs operates in 23 major cities, seven states, and Guam.

Worksite Labs expanded to Guam as an opportunity to provide better access directly to where those diagnostic services are needed. The company's model will bring speed and agility of a localized lab and the technology and service of a national laboratory network to Guam. Worksite Labs is offering a curated list of testing, which can be found on its website at guam.worksitelabs.com.

Worksite Labs is in-network with all local insurance plans on Guam including Calvo's SelectCare, TakeCare, NetCare, StayWell, Medicare, Medicaid, MIP (Medically Indigent Program), and soon TRICARE. Customers can make an appointment online at guam.worksitelabs.com or are welcome to walk into the Patient Service Centers at Guam Medical Plaza or Dededo Pay-Less. A doctor's requisition form is required for testing.

For more information about Worksite Labs, please visit guam.worksitelabs.com. Physicians can download the Worksite Labs requisition form on the website.

Worksite Labs is a decentralized healthcare testing and diagnostics company that delivers fast, reliable results by placing full-service labs where they are needed most. It uses technology, innovation, and logistical expertise to disrupt current industry practices, giving customers superior access to healthcare services so they can make informed decisions about their well-being. Based in Long Beach, California, the company operates labs in 23 major cities, seven states, and Guam. ***(PR)***

# US health officials propose using a cheap antibiotic as a 'morning-after pill' vs. STDs

**NEW YORK** (AP)—U.S. health officials plan to endorse a common antibiotic as a morning-after pill that gay and bisexual men can use to try to avoid some increasingly common sexually transmitted diseases.

The proposed CDC guideline was released Monday, and officials will move to finalize it after a 45-day public comment period. With STD rates rising to record levels, "more tools are desperately needed," said Dr. Jonathan Mermin of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The proposal comes after studies found some people who took the antibiotic doxycycline within three days of unprotected sex were far less likely to get chlamydia, syphilis or gonorrhea compared with people who did not take the pills after sex.

The guideline is specific to the group that has been most studied — gay and bisexual men and transgender women who had a STD in the previous 12 months and were at high risk to get infected again.

There's less evidence that the approach works for other people, including heterosexual men and women. That could change as more research is done, said Mermin, who oversees the CDC's STD efforts.

Even so, the idea ranks as one of only a few major prevention measures in recent decades in "a field that's lacked innovation for so long," said Mermin. The others include a vaccine against the HPV virus and pills to ward off HIV, he said.

Doxycycline, a cheap antibiotic that has been available for more than 40 years, is a treatment for health problems including acne, chlamydia and Rocky Mountain spotted fever.

The CDC guidelines were based on four studies of using doxycycline against bacterial STDs.

One of the most influential was a New England Journal of Medicine study earlier this year. It found that gay men, bisexual men and transgender women with previous STD infections who took the pills were about 90% less likely to get chlamydia, about 80% less likely to get syphilis and more than 50% less likely to get gonorrhea compared with people who didn't take the pills after sex.

A year ago, San Francisco's health department began promoting doxycycline as a morning-after prevention measure.

With infection rates rising, "we didn't feel like we could wait," said Dr. Stephanie Cohen, who oversees the department's STD prevention work.

Some other city, county and state health departments—mostly on the West Coast—followed suit.

At Fenway Health, a Boston-based health center that serves many gay, lesbian and transexual clients, about 1,000 patients are using doxycycline that way now, said Dr. Taimur Khan, the organization's associate medical research director.

# Microsoft CEO: Unfair Google practices led to its dominance as a search engine

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella said Monday that unfair tactics used by Google led to its dominance as a search engine, tactics that in turn have thwarted his company's rival program, Bing.

Nadella testified in a packed Washington, D.C., courtroom as part of the government's landmark antitrust trial against Google's parent company, Alphabet. The Justice Department alleges Google has abused the dominance of its ubiquitous search engine to throttle competition and innovation at the expense of consumers, allegations that echo a similar case brought against Microsoft in the late 1990s.

Nadella said Google's dominance was due to agreements that made it the default browser on smartphones and computers. He downplayed the idea that artificial intelligence or more niche search engines like Amazon or social media sites have meaningfully changed the market in which Microsoft competes with Google.

Nadella said users fundamentally don't have much choice in switching out of default web browsers on cell phones and computers.

"We are one of the alternatives but we're not the default," he said.

Google's lead litigator John Schmidtlein questioned Nadella about instances when users switched from Bing to Google even when Microsoft's search engine had default status on their devices — arguing that Microsoft made missteps with Bing that prevented it from rivaling Google.

When questioned, Nadella denied that Bing's adoption of artificial intelligence had led to dramatic shifts in its market share. Google has argued that artificial intelligence programs like chatbot ChatGPT have increased competition in the search engine market.

"Even the app store downloads are interesting but not ... something you write home about," Nadella said about Microsoft's revamped search engine enhanced with artificial intelligence.

Nadella was called to the witness stand as the biggest U.S. antitrust trial in the past quarter-century moved into its fourth week of testimony before U.S. District Judge Amit Mehta, who isn't expected to issue a decision in the case until next year.

# Nation

## Gaetz files motion to oust McCarthy, throwing House into new turmoil

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—Speaker Kevin McCarthy is facing an extraordinary referendum on his leadership of the House after a conservative member of his own Republican majority, a longtime critic, moved to launch a vote to oust him from the helm.

Late Monday, Rep. Matt Gaetz, R-Fla., rose in the chamber as the House was almost done for the day to file the motion—a resolution that would set a snap vote in coming days that even Gaetz acknowledged may not have enough support to remove the speaker from the job.

"I have enough Republicans where at this point next week, one of two things will happen: Kevin McCarthy won't be the speaker of the House or he'll be the speaker of the House working at the pleasure of the Democrats," Gaetz told reporters afterward outside the Capitol.

McCarthy responded minutes later on social media, "Bring it on."

Gaetz soon retorted in a post, "Just did."

It's a historic moment: the first time in more than 100 years that a lawmaker may actually force a vote using the legislative tool that has been threatened against other House speakers, including in 2015, but never fully employed to try to remove them.

The bold strike to confront McCarthy carries potentially dire ramifications if enough lawmakers decide to remove his hold on the gavel, but also for Gaetz if it fizzles out. It also puts on stark display the warring factions that have roiled the Republican majority this year in the House and beyond.

AP

Rep. Matt Gaetz, R-Fla., one of House Speaker Kevin McCarthy's harshest critics, answers questions from members of the media after speaking on the House floor, at the Capitol in Washington, Monday, Oct. 2, 2023.

So far, despite the deep divides over McCarthy's leadership, only a handful of hard-right Republicans have signaled they are willing to vote to remove him. Others who have aligned with Gaetz on spending cuts or other priorities are parting ways with him on this one.

"It's a really bad idea," said Rep. Thomas Massie, R-Ky., one of the more conservative lawmakers in the House.

Gaetz has for months threatened to use the procedural tool — called a motion to vacate — to try to strip McCarthy of his office. Those threats escalated over the weekend after McCarthy relied on Democrats to provide the necessary votes to fund the government.

That decision has set McCarthy up for what will likely be the ultimate test of his leadership and may force him to again look across the aisle to Democrats for support. But how the vote will ultimately unfold remains unclear as Democrats weigh whether to help McCarthy, join the effort to oust him, or simply withhold their votes or rely on parliamentary maneuvering that could sway the outcome.

"Do we side with a sociopath or an incompetent?" said Rep. Mark Pocan, D-Wis., a progressive leader. "I don't know?"

And allies of McCarthy have said for weeks they were ready for a motion to come.

Rep. Michael McCaul, R-Texas, the chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, said he has spoken privately to some Democrats who have told him they would vote to help McCarthy remain in office. "I'm sure Mr. Gaetz will have some allies who will go with him. But I don't see enough."

The vote ahead could result in humiliation—the first speaker ever ousted from the job through such a motion—or newfound strength as he overcomes yet another obstacle while trying to lead a narrow, unwieldy majority.

Conservative critics have been hounding McCarthy from the start, denying him votes and thwarting his plans. But McCarthy has leaned into the fight and suggested it's an opportunity to set aside his critics once and for all.

Gaetz acknowledged the effort is likely to fail. He responded to questions about what he hoped to accomplish by saying Americans need to know who's in charge.

In a speech on the House floor earlier in the day, Gaetz accused McCarthy of making a deal with the White House during funding negotiations to bring forward legislation to help fund Ukraine in its war against Russia.

Brushing off the threat, McCarthy told reporters earlier at the Capitol, "I'm focused on doing the work that has to be done." He added that there was "no side deal" on Ukraine, noting he has not spoken to Biden.

## The Pentagon warns Congress it's running low on money to replace weapons sent to Ukraine

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—The Pentagon is warning Congress that it is running low on money to replace weapons the U.S. has sent to Ukraine and has already been forced to slow down resupplying some troops, according to a letter sent to congressional leaders.

The letter, obtained by The Associated Press, urges Congress to replenish funding for Ukraine. Congress averted a government shutdown by passing a short-term funding bill over the weekend, but the measure dropped all assistance for Ukraine in the battle against Russia.

Pentagon Comptroller Michael McCord told House and Senate leaders there is $1.6 billion left of the $25.9 billion Congress provided to replenish U.S. military stocks that have been flowing to Ukraine. The weapons include millions of rounds of artillery, rockets and missiles critical to Ukraine's counteroffensive aimed at taking back territory gained by Russia in the war.

In addition, the U.S. has about $5.4 billion left to provide weapons and equipment from its stockpiles. The U.S. would have already run out of that funding if the Pentagon hadn't realized earlier this year that it had overvalued the equipment it had already sent, freeing up about $6.2 billion. Some of that has been sent in recent months.

McCord said the U.S. has completely run out of long-term funding for Kyiv through the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative, which providesmoney to contract for future weapons.

"We have already been forced to slow down the replenishment of our own forces to hedge against an uncertain funding future," McCord said in the letter. "Failure to replenish our military services on a timely basis could harm our military's readiness."

He added that without additional funding now, the U.S. will have to delay or curtail air defense weapons, ammunition, drones and demolition and breaching equipment that are "critical and urgent now as Russia prepares to conduct a winter offensive."

President Joe Biden said Sunday that while the aid will keep flowing for now, time is running out.

"We cannot under any circumstances allow America's support for Ukraine to be interrupted," Biden said. "We have time, not much time, and there's an overwhelming sense of urgency."

Mark Cancian, a senior adviser at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, said if the aid doesn't keep flowing, Ukrainian resistance will begin to weaken.

## Trump's civil fraud trial in NY to get down to business after fiery first day

**NEW YORK** (AP)—After a fiery first day of opening arguments, lawyers in Donald Trump's business fraud trial in New York will move on Tuesday to the more plodding task of going through years of his financial documents in what's expected to be a weekslong fight over whether they constitute proof of fraud.

An accountant who prepared Trump's financial statements for years was expected to be back on the witness stand for a second day.

Trump, who spent a full day Monday as an angry spectator at the civil trial, was contemplating a return to court as well.

After denouncing the judge and New York's attorney general, who brought the lawsuit, Trump said in a courtroom hallway that he "may" be back for a second day, though he noted, "I'd love to be campaigning instead of doing this."

The trial is the culmination of a lawsuit in which Attorney General Letitia James, a Democrat, has accused Trump of deceiving banks, insurers and others for years by giving them papers that misstated the value of his assets.

Judge Arthur Engoron already delivered an early victory to James, ruling that Trump committed fraud by exaggerating the size of his penthouse at Trump Tower, claiming his Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida was worth as much as $739 million, and putting similar oversized valuations on office towers, golf courses and other assets.

The non-jury trial concerns six remaining claims in the lawsuit, and how much Trump might owe in penalties. James is seeking $250 million and a ban on Trump doing business in New York. The judge has already ruled that some of Trump's limited liability companies should be dissolved as punishment.

During the trial's first day, Kevin Wallace, a lawyer for the attorney general, told the judge that Trump and his company had lied "year after year after year" in his financial statements to make him look richer than he really was.

Trump's lawyers said the statements were legitimate representations of the worth of unique luxury properties, made even more valuable because of their association with Trump. "That is not fraud. That is real estate," attorney Alina Habba said.

After staying away from a previous trial, in which his company and one of his top executives was convicted of tax fraud, Trump spent hours sitting in court watching Monday's opening statements, emerging several times to tell reporters that the trial was "a sham" intended to hurt his election prospects.

Visibly angry for much of the day, Trump left claiming he'd scored a victory, pointing to comments that he viewed as the judge coming around to the defense view that most of the allegations in the lawsuit are barred by the state's statute of imitations.

After the first witness, Mazars LLP partner Donald Bender, testified at length about Trump's 2011 financial statement, Judge Engoron questioned whether it might have been a waste of his time, because any fraud in the document would be beyond the legal time limit. Wallace promised to link it to a more recent loan agreement, but Trump took the judge's remarks as an "outstanding" development for him.

Bender's testimony was to resume Tuesday. The trial is expected to last into December.

# Asia

## ASIAN BRIEFS

### Taiwan braces for strong wind and rain as Typhoon Koinu approaches

**TAIPEI, Taiwan** (AP)—Taiwan issued a weather alert on Tuesday as Typhoon Koinu is approaching and may make landfall later this week, bringing gales and downpours to the southeastern parts of the island. The weather bureau put out a land warning on Tuesday after issuing a sea alert late Monday. Koinu was moving northwest with sustained winds of 162 kph (101 mph) near its center, according to the bureau. Forecasters expected it to bring strong winds and downpours to southern and eastern parts of Taiwan early Wednesday and potentially make landfall in the southeastern part of the island on Thursday. Beaches in Kenting National Park, in the southern tip of Taiwan, were closed to the public on Tuesday. Meanwhile, the local authorities in the southeastern Taitung County listed several coastal and mountainous areas as potential hazard zones. Chinese weather authorities said Tuesday that Koinu may make landfall somewhere along Taiwan's southern coast or pass the island without making landfall and move westward with reduced intensity from Wednesday evening to Thursday morning. Authorities in the southeastern Chinese city of Zhangzhou asked fishing boats to return to port by Wednesday evening and suspended ferry services on Thursday and Friday.

### Malaysians urged not to panic-buy local rice

**KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia** (AP)—Malaysia's government has reassured the country that enough rice is available and urged people not to hoard locally produced rice after recent panic buying led to empty shelves in supermarkets and grocery stores nationwide. Agriculture and Food Security Minister Mohamad Sabu said Monday the government will increase distribution to rural areas to address a supply issue sparked by a hike in the price of imported rice. Malaysia and many countries are grappling with rising rice prices and low supplies after India's curb on rice sales cut global supplies by a fifth. Mohamad said locally produced rice is capped at 2.60 ringgit ($0.55) per kilogram (2.2 pounds), the cheapest in the region. So when sole importer Padiberas Nasional Berhad raised the price of imported white rice by 36% on Sept. 1, it prompted many Malaysians to switch from imported rice to cheaper local rice. He said the higher price of imported rice cannot be helped after India and 18 other countries restricted rice exports to cater to domestic needs. Malaysia imports about a third of its rice supply. "Actually, we don't have a shortage of rice in the country. It's just that the price of imported rice has risen sharply," he said, adding that the government is taking steps to address this issue. "I want to remind the people again to keep calm and just buy what you need. Don't panic-buy." Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim said later Monday that it will take time to resolve the issue. He was quoted by the national Bernama news agency as saying the government will provide 400 million ringgit ($85 million) in subsidies to government facilities such as army and police camps and schools to use imported rice so there will be more local rice for the market.

### Parents in Pakistan could face prison time for not vaccinating their kids against polio

**KARACHI, Pakistan** (AP)—Authorities in one Pakistan province are turning to a controversial new tactic in the decades-long initiative to wipe out polio: prison. Last month, the government in Sindh introduced a bill that would imprison parents for up to one month if they fail to get their children immunized against polio or eight other common diseases. Experts at the World Health Organization and elsewhere worry the unusual strategy could further undermine trust in the polio vaccines, particularly in a country where many believe false conspiracies about them and where dozens of vaccinators have been shot and killed. Adding to the problems faced by experts trying to persuade people of the vaccines' safety: The oral vaccines themselves now cause most polio cases worldwide. WHO's polio director in the Eastern Mediterranean warned the new law could backfire. "Coercion is counterproductive," said Dr. Hamid Jafari. He said health workers have typically succeeded in raising immunization rates in vaccine-hesitant areas by figuring out the reasons for people's refusal and addressing those concerns, like bringing in a trusted political or religious leader to talk with people. "My own sense is that Pakistan wants to have this legislation in their back pocket in case they need it," Jafari said. "I would be surprised if there's a willingness to actually enforce these coercive measures." Pakistan and neighboring Afghanistan are the only countries where the spread of polio has never been stopped. The potentially fatal, paralyzing disease mostly strikes children up to age 5 and typically spreads in contaminated water.

### Indonesian president launches Southeast Asia's first high-speed railway, funded by China

**JAKARTA, Indonesia** (AP)—Indonesian President Joko Widodo inaugurated Southeast Asia's first high-speed railway on Monday as it was set to begin commercial operations, a key project under China's Belt and Road infrastructure initiative that will drastically reduce the travel time between two key cities. The project has been beset with delays and increasing costs, and some observers doubt its commercial benefits. But Widodo has championed the 142-kilometer (88-mile) railway, which was issued its official operating license from the Transportation Ministry on Sunday.

The $7.3 billion project, largely funded by China, was constructed by PT Kereta Cepat Indonesia-China, known as PT KCIC, a joint venture between an Indonesian consortium of four state-owned companies and China Railway International Co. Ltd. The railway connects Jakarta with Bandung, the heavily populated capital of West Java province, and will cut travel time between the cities from the current three hours to about 40 minutes. Its use of electrical energy is expected to reduce carbon emissions. Widodo in his opening remarks officially named Indonesia's first high-speed railway—the fastest in Southeast Asia, with speeds of up to 350 kph (217 mph)—as "Whoosh," from "Waktu Hemat, Operasi Optimal, Sistem Handal," which means "time-saving, optimal operation, reliable system" in Indonesian language. "The Jakarta-Bandung high-speed train marks the modernization of our mass transportation, which is efficient and environmentally friendly," Widodo said.

# World

## TO RECONSTRUCT LIBYA'S WRECKED CITY

## UN envoy calls for a 'unified mechanism'

AP

Special Representative of the UN Secretary General to Libya Abdoulaye Bathily speaks during a meeting with Arab Foreign Ministers in the capital of Tripoli, Sunday Jan. 22, 2023.

**CAIRO** (AP)—The United Nations' top official in divided Libya on Monday called for a unified mechanism to lead the reconstruction of a coastal city that was wrecked by devastating floods last month.

U.N. Special Envoy for Libya Abdoulaye Bathily said in a statement that such a mechanism is required amid "unilateral and competing initiatives" by Libyan actors and institutions on the reconstruction of the Mediterranean city of Derna and other flood-impacted areas.

Devastating rainfall and floods, triggered by Mediterranean Storm Danial, hit parts of eastern Libya last month. The floods overwhelmed two depleted dams outside Derna on Sep. 11, causing massive waters that washed away residential buildings to the sea and left as much as one-third of Derna's housing and infrastructure damaged, according to the U.N.'s Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

Government officials and aid agencies have given estimated death tolls ranging from more than 4,000 to over 11,000. The bodies of many of the people killed still are under rubble or in the Mediterranean, according to search teams.

As Libya remains divided, with two rival administrations claiming legitimacy and each wanting to oversee the reconstruction of Derna, Bathily called for "a unified national mechanism ... required to effectively and efficiently take forward the reconstruction efforts in the flood-affected areas."

He urged Libyan rival authorities and their international partners to facilitate the establishment of the unified mechanism to ensure "transparency and accountability."

Following the disaster, many in and outside Libya called for an international investigation, reflecting the deep public mistrust in state institutions. The two dams had not being maintained for decades despite repeated warnings that they were depleted.

Bathily's call for a unified mechanism quickly gained support from the U.S., the U.K., France, Germany, and Italy.

The five governments said in a joint statement that they "strongly support" a proposal to "deliver transparent and accountable relief and response to the reconstruction needs in the wake of the flood disaster."

The oil-rich North African nation has been in chaos since 2011, when an Arab Spring uprising, backed by NATO, ousted longtime dictator Moammar Gadhafi, who was later killed. For most of the past decade, rival administrations have claimed authority to lead Libya.

## More than 100 dolphins found dead in Brazilian Amazon

**SAO PAULO** (AP)—More than 100 dolphins have died in the Brazilian Amazon rainforest in the past week as the region grapples with a severe drought, and many more could die soon if water temperatures remain high, experts say.

The Mamiraua Institute, a research group of Brazil's Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, said two more dead dolphins were found Monday in the region around Tefe Lake, which is key for mammals and fish in the area. Video provided by the institute showed vultures picking at the dolphin carcasses beached on the lakeside. Thousands of fish have also died, local media reported.

Experts believe high water temperatures are the most likely cause of the deaths in the lakes in the region. Temperatures since last week have exceeded 39 degrees Celsius (102 degrees Fahrenheit) in the Tefe Lake region.

The Brazilian government's Chico Mendes Institute for Biodiversity Conservation, which manages conservation areas, said last week it had sent teams of veterinarians and aquatic mammal experts to investigate the deaths.

There had been some 1,400 river dolphins in Tefe Lake, said Miriam Marmontel, a researcher from the Mamiraua Institute.

"In one week we have already lost around 120 animals between the two of them, which could represent 5% to 10% of the population," said Marmontel.

Workers have recovered carcasses of dolphins since last week in a region where dry rivers have impacted impoverished riverside communities and stuck their boats in the sand. Amazonas Gov. Wilson Lima on Friday declared a state of emergency due to the drought.

Nicson Marreira, mayor of Tefe, a city of 60,000 residents. said his government was unable to deliver food directly to some isolated communities because the rivers are dry.

Ayan Fleischmann, the Geospatial coordinator at the Mamirauá Institute, said the drought has had a major impact on the riverside communities in the Amazon region.

"Many communities are becoming isolated, without access to good quality water, without access to the river, which is their main means of transportation," he said.

# Good Housekeeping

HANDOUT/TNS

White selections are sprinkled throughout this living space, from the upholstery to the artwork.

## Decorating with white

By CATHY HOBBS
Tribune News Service

What color is white? When it comes to the world of home decor, the answer can be a loaded question. For many, white can be one of the most difficult colors to use.

White comes in hundreds of tints and shades. Some may appear bluer, others grayer, yellower, etc. White is also a very difficult color to match, and matching different shades of white often leads to unsuccessful results. On the other hand, a dominant white or pure white decor can appear, fresh, elegant and soothing.

If considering working with white, here are some overall dos and don'ts.

### DO'S

■ Do pay attention to the colors that will surround your particular shade of white. White is a color that is often drastically impacted by what surrounds it. For example, if a white sofa is placed next to a bright green chair, the sofa may appear to have green undertones.

■ Do experiment with different shades of white during different times of the day. Color is very much impacted by natural light.

■ Do experiment with different materials. You can mix materials in a space such as a wood object painted white with white lacquer cabinets.

■ Do consider a pure white or white-dominated color scheme; it can appear fresh and bright.

■ Do consider styling decorative spaces such as shelves with pure white accents.

SCOTT GABRIEL MORRIS/TNS

"Winter" or off-white is paired with pure white cabinetry to complete an overall neutral palette.

### DON'TS

■ Don't be afraid to mix different shades of white; just be sure to select shades that complement, not clash.

■ Don't be afraid to use white floor coverings such as area rugs. They can serve well in special areas or those that don't get much foot traffic.

■ Don't be afraid to mix pure white with cream, tints, tones and shades of white, which can be used successfully in the same space.

■ Don't forget to use white decor items such as mirrors, toss pillows and books. These neutral accents will blend well with existing decor.

■ Don't ignore that white is a color. From leaving white trims and baseboards to white walls and furniture and furnishings, white can serve as a great accent color.

SCOTT GABRIEL MORRIS/TNS

Shades of white and off-white help make this living room feel warm and inviting.

HANDOUT/TNS

White furnishings including sofa, chairs, ottoman, area rug and sideboard featured through the popular design technique of color mapping, in which color is "mapped" or repeated throughout a space.

HANDOUT/TNS

A large living space is made cozy and elegant through a thoughtful blend of off-white upholstery and black accents.

## When's the best time for lawn care? Right now

By CONNIE NELSON
Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

When it comes to taking care of our lawns, most of us are doing it wrong.

We water too often and too shallowly, rather than less frequently and longer. We cut the grass too short, instead of leaving it a good 4 inches (which benefits pollinators). And we fertilize in spring, when fall is the prime time to set your grass up for the best growth.

Why? Jon Trappe chalks it up to human nature.

"A great lawn begins in the fall," says the turf grass expert with the University of Minnesota Extension, "but people are often tired of taking care of their lawn by fall."

Come spring, after a long winter, we're raring to go. Too many of us double-down, overdo, then wonder why our efforts don't pay off.

Trappe has some welcome advice for us: If we take a few simple steps in autumn, we'll have a healthier, better looking lawn come spring.

### Why now

Without getting really technical (and Trappe can), fall is the best time to fertilize because the grasses we grow tend to be less stressed by heat. They are actively growing in autumn, but they're storing more energy in their roots for winter and the next season.

Another plus to fall fertilization: We tend to have fewer weeds to soak up the feed.

"Fall," Trappe says, "is the best time for the plants we want to grow and the best time to avoid feeding weeds."

### How often

Whether you need to fertilize depends on how you use your lawn.

"If you've got three kids and a golden retriever, you're going to need some fertilizer," he says. "If you're retired empty nesters and walk across the lawn only occasionally, you probably need less fertilizer."

Trappe recommends one or two fall fertilizations, in early to mid-September and early to mid-October (no later than the 15th). That'll eliminate the need to fertilize in spring.

### Growing greener

In recent years, grass has gotten a bad rap for being a water hog and a monocultural wasteland that fails to foster bees and other pollinators.

But it does have its benefits: it prevents erosion, helps with flood control, assists in breaking down organic chemicals and can create a cooling effect, as the U's extension site details. And it's hard to play a cutthroat game of croquet in your flower beds.

There are some easy ways to make our grass greener, so to speak.

One is to introduce lower maintenance grasses—fine fescues—that are specifically adapted to Minnesota. They need less water, less fertilizer and less mowing.

Most shady lawn seed mixes have fine fescues, but Trappe recommends buying a mix that has fine fescues on the label. Most local garden centers carry low-input mixes. (If you want to geek out on fescues, go to the extension's website.)

### Catch a buzz

If you can give up the golf course look, consider moving toward a more pollinator-friendly lawn. Often called bee-friendly, these mixes typically contain creeping thyme (not to be confused with its evil cousin creeping Charlie), yarrow and white clover.

A bee-friendly lawn doesn't look a whole lot different from a traditional lawn, because these tiny flowering plants grow at the same height as grass plants.

### Going to seed

Guess what time of year is best to seed your lawn?

Yup, fall.

Early September is good time to add seed to sparse spots or introduce low-impact and bee-friendly mixes. Later is even better.

From late October into November, you can "dormant seed." Before the ground is frozen, mow the grass shorter (to about 2 inches), rake to allow the seed contact with the soil and cast the seed. The sure-to-come snows and freeze-thaw cycle will work the seed into the soil.

And give you one less thing to do in spring.

# Life & Style

## Late-night shows return after writers strike as actors resume talks

AP

This combination of images shows, from left, Jimmy Fallon, Jimmy Kimmel, Seth Meyers, and Stephen Colbert.

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—Late-night talk shows began their return to the air after a five-month absence brought on by the Hollywood writers strike, while actors completed the first day of talks that could end their own long work walk-off.

CBS's " The Late Show With Stephen Colbert," ABC's " Jimmy Kimmel Live! " and NBC's " The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon " were the first shows to leave the air when the writers strike began on May 2, and now are among the first to return with airings Monday night.

Colbert blew a leaping kiss to his audience, which chanted his name as he took the stage at the Ed Sullivan Theater in New York for the early evening taping of his show that airs at 11:35 p.m. Eastern.

"It feels good to be back," the host said. "Now the writers strike is over with a new contract that includes protections against AI, cost of living increases, better pay for streaming, plus, thanks to the picket lines, my writers got fresh air and sunshine, and they do not care for that. Now they're back safely in their joke holes."

He lamented having been unable to weigh in with jokes about so much news for so many months.

"I believe we have been off the air for 154 indictments," he said. "It was a crazy summer to be off. It was just packed with events."

Meanwhile, the Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists began negotiations Monday with the same group, the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers, for the first time since they joined writers in a historic dual strike on July 14. The two sides will resume talks Wednesday.

Comedian John Oliver got his first take on the strike out on Sunday night, exuberantly returning to his "Last Week Tonight" show on HBO and delivering full-throated support for the strike.

Oliver cheerily delivered a recap of stories from the last five months before turnings serious, calling the strike "an immensely difficult time" for all those in the industry.

## Patrick Stewart looks back on his life in memoir

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Patrick Stewart, who famously played a "Star Trek" captain, has boldly gone where no one has gone before—into his past.

The actor spent much of the pandemic at his computer writing his memoir, and the result is out this fall, "Making It So," borrowing his catchphrase from "Star Trek: The Next Generation."

"My long-term memory is very strong. It only needed me to turn the key on day one for the door to be open and memory after memory after memory and sensation and sensation and feelings all came scuttling back," said Stewart, 83, in a Zoom interview from his Los Angeles home.

It is a remarkable story of a boy who grew up poor in the north of England, became a great Shakespearean stage actor and then a sci-fi movie icon aboard the USS Enterprise and the "X-Men" movie franchise.

He grew up without a toilet or a bathroom in his home, sold furniture as a young man, worked up the rungs of regional theater in England—including touring and crushing on Vivien Leigh—before a 14-year-run with the Royal Shakespeare Company and film and TV stardom in Los Angeles.

"It's been a very therapeutic experience," Stewart says in the interview of writing the book. "I know that my therapist is one of the people who is most looking forward to the book. I know I'm going to be hearing, 'Why didn't you tell me this?'"

If one shadow looms, it is that of Stewart's father, a former regimental sergeant major in the British Army who was prone to outbursts of repeated violence against his mother.

Stewart writes about how he and his older brother, Trevor, braced for nights when their dad came home drunk and angry. "Sometimes it was with an open hand, other times a closed fist. Always he aimed for her head."

Stewart wonders if the violence triggered his career. "The stage would prove to be a safe space, a refuge from real life in which I could inhabit another person, living in another place and time," he writes.

Other portraits emerge of people who were kind to Stewart along the way—Paul McCartney, Rod Steiger and Kirk Douglas—and some who were not: Director David Lynch was weird during the original "Dune" shoot and "Star Trek" creator Gene Roddenberry never liked the idea of Stewart piloting one of his starships.

## 2nd UK police force looks into allegations of sexual offenses committed by Russell Brand

**LONDON** (AP)—A second British police force is looking into sexual offenses allegedly committed by actor and comedian Russell Brand, British media reported Monday.

Thames Valley Police is taking a fresh look at harassment and stalking allegations previously made by a woman against Brand between 2018 and 2022, the BBC and PA news agency said.

The police force declined to name Brand—as is usual in the U.K. for people who have not been charged—but issued a statement when asked about the news reports.

"Thames Valley Police in the past two weeks, received new information in relation to harassment and stalking allegations dating back to 2018," it said. "This information is being investigated; as such it would be inappropriate to comment on an ongoing investigation."

London's Metropolitan Police said last week it was examining "a number of allegations of sexual offenses" relating to Brand following a television documentary and newspaper investigations.

Brand, 48, denies allegations of sexual assault made by four women in a Channel 4 television documentary and The Times and Sunday Times newspapers. The accusers, who have not been named, include one who said she was sexually assaulted during a relationship with him when she was 16. Another woman says Brand raped her in Los Angeles in 2012.

Brand was a major U.K. star in the early 2000s, hosting shows on radio and television and appearing in several Hollywood movies. He was briefly married to pop star Katy Perry between 2010 and 2012.

Brand has largely disappeared from mainstream media but has built up a large following online with videos mixing wellness and conspiracy theories. YouTube has said it will stop Brand from making money from the streaming site, where he has 6.6 million subscribers, due to the "serious allegations" against him.

## Long-distance couple wants to maintain a sexual spark

**DEAR ABBY:** My fiance and I are engaged to be married soon, but we live (and will continue to live) in separate cities. We are in our mid-50s with children, and it's the second marriage for each of us.

My fiance isn't very verbal about his desires, but we talk with each other every day and we live together about half the time. I want to make sure he isn't lonely and isn't wanting more when we're apart, but I'm not an openly sexual person, and I'm not sure I'd feel comfortable engaging in video chat intimacy with him. I have raised the topic with him. He suggested I write to you and see what you suggest.

LONG-DISTANCE WIFE-TO-BE

**DEAR WIFE-TO-BE: If you both agree, I'm suggesting you and your fiance give it a try. If you do, it may not only enhance your married life but also teach you both how to discuss what you need from each other, which could only bring you closer.**

■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** My husband of six years has left me for my sister. I'm brokenhearted because I thought he was the love of my life. I thought the six years we had together were wonderful for both of us.

I don't know how to continue on. My mental health is at an all-time low. Friends have tried to reach out to me, but I push them away because I no longer trust anyone. I'm afraid they, too, will hurt me. I am no longer in contact with my sister.

Should I allow my friends to comfort me, even when I have issues with them? Or should I try to heal on my own? My life is in ruins, and I can't seem to rise up from it.

BROKEN IN THE CAROLINAS

**DEAR BROKEN: Friends reach out because they care about you and want to support you. Please give them a chance to do that. If you have a religious adviser, talk to that person as well. Your life may seem like it has sunk to an all-time low, but it isn't over unless you allow it to be.**

**Your ex may have seemed like the love of your life, but please know you can do better. Dogs are more loyal than he was. Once you have accepted that fact, you may be able to move on. Talking to a licensed psychotherapist would be an excellent step. You CAN heal from this, but not until you make up your mind to allow it.**

■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** I am writing you for two reasons. I am 60 years old and still a virgin. I like men, but I'm not much interested in dating. Is this normal? The second reason is, lately, I have been thinking about my mortality. I have promised myself for years that I would get a Bath and Body Works holiday package. It's $30 with a $30 purchase, so $60. I have rolled my coins and have more than $60. I'm not a wealthy woman. What do you think?

BUCKET LIST IN THE EAST

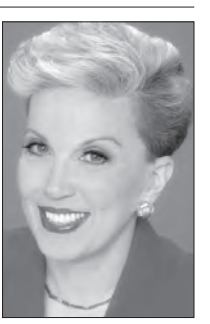
**DEAR BUCKET LIST: Not everyone has a strong sex drive. That you are still a virgin at 60 is normal for YOU, so stop worrying about it. As to the holiday gift you would like to give yourself, I say go for it. You only live once, so splurge and cross it off your bucket list with my blessing.**

■ ■ ■

*To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)*

## DEAR ABBY

**By Abigail Van Buren**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

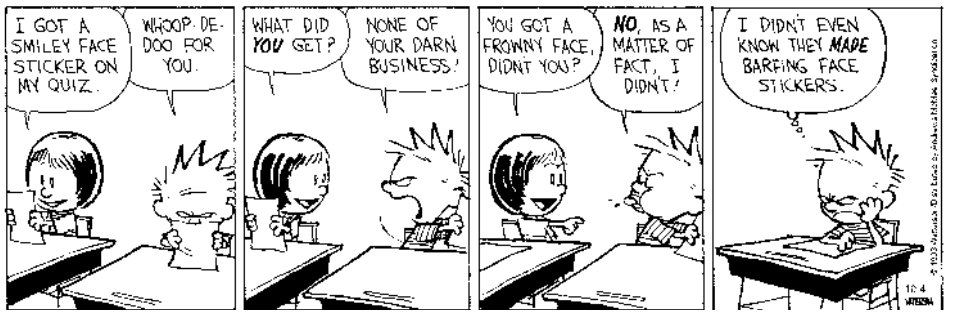


*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*

# Pastimes

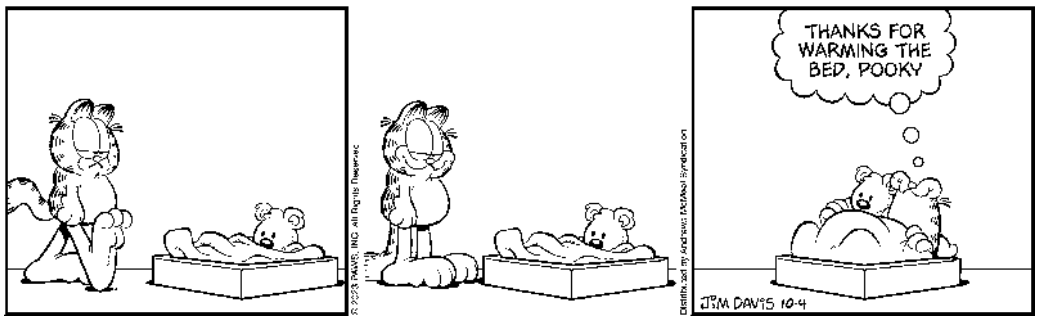
## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


I GOT A SMILEY FACE STICKER ON MY QUIZ.
WHOOP-DE-DOO FOR YOU.
WHAT DID YOU GET?
NONE OF YOUR DARN BUSINESS!
YOU GOT A FROWNY FACE, DIDN'T YOU?
NO, AS A MATTER OF FACT, I DIDN'T!
I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW THEY MADE BARFING FACE STICKERS.

## Garfield®

By Jim Davis




## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

HOW'S THE NEW BOOK COMING?
TYPE TAP TAP
TAP TAP TAP TAP TAP
WHAT? OH, SORRY. I WAS IN THE ZONE.
OH.
DON'T YOU LOVE THE ZONE?
I THINK I SAW THE ZONE FROM AFAR ONE AFTERNOON IN THE FALL OF '93.

## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

HOW LONG DID THE VET SAY I HAVE TO WEAR THIS?
UNTIL YOUR SORE HEALS. ABOUT A WEEK.
SINCE I CAN'T DRINK A BEER LIKE THIS, I GUESS YOU'LL BE LEFT TO IT ALL FOR A WHILE.
I MEAN A YEAR.

## CROSSWORD

*By Eugene Sheffer*

**ACROSS**

1 "Butter" K-pop band
4 — de plume
7 Avocado dip, for short
8 Blogger and "Tribes" author Seth
10 Concert venue
11 Handsome guy
13 Some heads of households
16 Commotion
17 Well-versed folks?
18 Consume
19 Clothing store section
20 Wild revelry
21 Cash drawers
23 Brief rest
25 Kid's plea
26 Ale measure
27 Jackson 5 hit song
28 Dare-devil's feat
30 Do something
33 Colorful post-rainstorm sight
36 Baltimore bird
37 Dutch cheese
38 Stylish wrap
39 Online craft shop
40 CIA operative
41 Born abroad?

**DOWN**

1 Good, in Guadalajara
2 Tart flavor
3 Surgeon's tool
4 Greet silently
5 Aromas
6 Ore source
7 Crossword diagram
8 Stares stupidly
9 Calif. NFL team
10 Simile words
12 Put on a show
14 Eternities
15 Pigs' digs
19 Roman 1051
20 "Shoo!"
21 Forbidden
22 Acquires, as debts
23 — colada
24 Immunity trigger
25 Scoundrel
26 Liquefy
28 Sailing vessel
29 Boob tube, to a Brit
30 Mistreat
31 Wyoming city
32 Former Delta rival
34 Morsels
35 Part of a chord

**Solution time: 23 mins.**

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| T | E | A | L | | C | P | A | | T | A | C | O |
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| R | U | S | H | I | N | G | | A | P | E | R | S |
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| A | A | A | | | D | O | N | | | A | H | A |
| R | U | S | H | O | U | T | | B | A | R | O | N |
| | | | A | A | H | | P | U | I | | | |
| C | H | E | S | T | | R | U | S | H | D | I | E |
| R | U | S | H | H | O | U | R | | O | R | A | L |
| F | L | S | F | | I | R | S | | M | I | M | E |
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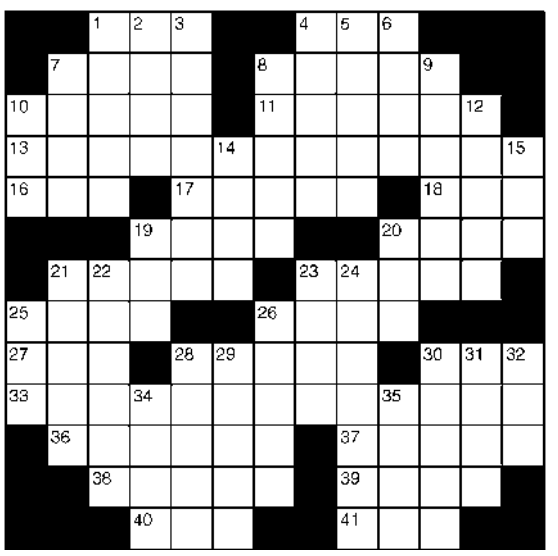
Yesterday's answer 10-4



**STUMPED?** For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Alicia Silverstone, 47; Liev Schreiber, 56; Christoph Waltz, 67; Susan Sarandon, 77.

**Happy Birthday:** Live life your way. Fulfill your dreams and follow your heart. Using experience and knowledge, you must broaden your awareness and make decisions that bring you closer to your desired life. A passionate, intense step forward will place you in a new environment with plenty to discover about yourself and what's possible this year. Trust your instincts and do what makes you happy. Your numbers are 7, 16, 20, 29, 32, 37, 48.

**ARIES** *(March 21-April 19):* Get the grunt work out of the way before you move on to something more enjoyable. If you leave your responsibilities unfinished, you will face criticism or hidden costs. Pay attention and avoid temptation. Superfluity is the enemy, not an opportunity. ✪✪✪✪

**TAURUS** *(April 20-May 20):* Don't estimate how much things cost. Review numbers and figure out what's doable. If you let your heart get involved in a deal, you will overpay or do too much. A problem with one of your peers will escalate if you renege. ✪✪✪

**GEMINI** *(May 21-June 20):* Keep an open mind, but don't believe everything you hear. Refuse to pay for someone else's mistake. Offer advice, but don't take on the costs of letting someone use you. Put your effort into participating in events that offer beneficial connections. ✪✪✪

**CANCER** *(June 21-July 22):* Move forward with eyes wide open. Listen carefully and change what's necessary and factual. If you're gullible, someone will lead you astray and take advantage of you. Protect your reputation, possessions and ideas while you put things in place. ✪✪✪

**LEO** *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Temptation will result in underestimating the outcome. Think before making physical changes that are unnecessarily costly. Take care of debts before signing up for something you can't afford. Stick to simple plans that ward off trouble and ease stress. Focus on fitness and health. ✪✪✪✪

**VIRGO** *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Take on a challenge that can set you free. Enforce changes that are positive, opportunity-driven and based on facts, figures and what you know you can do to reach your goal. Surround yourself with people who share your perspective. ✪✪

**LIBRA** *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Changes at home will depend on how you handle your finances. A hands-on approach to investments will lead to privileged information. Don't share details that might jeopardize the results you anticipate. Keep your finger on the pulse. ✪✪✪✪✪

**SCORPIO** *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Dig in and get things done. Don't be afraid to take a different path if it will give you a unique perspective on something or someone. A change is overdue, but choose moderation as your guide before you begin. Too much of anything will confuse you. ✪✪✪

**SAGITTARIUS** *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Put your heart into whatever you do and follow through. Don't leave anything undone or rely on others to finish what you start. Avoid those who aren't honest regarding their intentions. Focus on self-improvement and personal growth. Put your energy into worthwhile prospects. ✪✪✪

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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**CAPRICORN** *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Take a tally of your to-do list and make the necessary changes to improve your status quo and investment prospects. Search for different applications for your skills that will result in greater cash flow. Choose the path that will offer less stress. ✪✪✪

**AQUARIUS** *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Look for the less obvious outcome in order to gain insight into the possibilities. Trust your instincts and rely on yourself. Focus on your passion and you'll be happy with what you achieve. Discipline and hard work will help you overcome temptation. ✪✪✪✪✪

**PISCES** *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Dreams can come true if you follow through. Show your strengths and use your skills to bring about change and opportunities that help you build equity and worthwhile connections. Dedicate time to improve the world around you. ✪✪

**Birthday Baby:** You are intuitive, underrated and curious. You are romantic and upbeat.

*✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.*

## SUDOKU

**Conceptis Sudoku** *By Dave Green*

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | 7 | | | | | |
| | | 3 | | 8 | | | 7 | 5 |
| | | | | | 6 | 3 | 4 | |
| | 5 | 2 | | 9 | | | 6 | 7 |
| 6 | 8 | | 5 | | | 2 | | |
| 9 | 7 | | | 2 | 8 | | 5 | |
| 4 | | 6 | | 7 | | | 2 | |
| | | 8 | | | | 5 | 3 | |
| 2 | | | 8 | 4 | | | | |

Difficulty: ★★★ 10/4

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

**Yesterday's Answer**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 7 | 9 | 4 | 5 |
| 8 | 7 | 9 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 6 | 2 |
| 5 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 1 | 9 | 3 | 7 | 8 |
| 2 | 5 | 4 | 9 | 7 | 1 | 6 | 8 | 3 |
| 7 | 1 | 8 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 9 | 4 |
| 3 | 9 | 6 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 7 |
| 9 | 8 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 1 |
| 1 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 3 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 9 |
| 4 | 2 | 7 | 1 | 9 | 5 | 8 | 3 | 6 |

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Difficulty: ★★ 10/3

## WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

TOTO CUTUGNO (1943-2023) Solution: 6 letters

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| O | A | O | N | I | C | O | V | O | N | I | D | S | O | F |
| I | N | L | T | T | E | M | O | Z | I | O | N | I | D | I |
| L | N | A | R | R | O | S | E | M | P | R | E | N | N | O |
| O | A | S | I | A | E | U | U | O | C | O | I | G | A | R |
| S | S | A | I | L | C | B | R | T | Y | A | O | E | T | D |
| B | O | L | F | E | A | P | O | P | U | L | A | R | N | A |
| A | R | V | O | I | M | T | V | R | O | S | A | I | A | L |
| I | T | A | G | V | G | E | I | S | E | Y | C | T | C | I |
| Z | A | T | G | R | E | L | S | L | E | M | E | A | I | S |
| E | B | O | I | O | W | A | I | E | R | B | M | T | N | O |
| P | L | R | F | R | N | N | O | V | O | O | A | U | C | Y |
| S | A | E | I | R | O | E | N | A | M | L | N | S | R | O |
| A | A | T | E | N | E | T | R | R | A | T | I | U | G | D |
| L | E | M | A | M | M | E | O | T | D | D | O | N | N | A |
| R | O | V | R | O | T | C | A | T | A | N | E | R | E | S |

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Actor, Albatros, Amore, Cantando, Carla, Disco, Donna, Drummer, Emozioni, Eurovision, Figli, Fiordaliso, Fosdinovo, Free, Gioco, Guitar, Insieme, Italy, La Spezia, Le Mamme, L'Italiano, Love, Name, Nico, Oggi, Popular, Roberto, Rosanna, Salvatore, Sanremo, Sempre, Serenata, Singer, Soli, Solo, Symbol, Tati, Toto, Tour, Travel, Trero, Tuscany, Vanoni, Writer

**Yesterday's Answer: Scientist**

The NEW **Wonderword Grand Millennium #1** in LARGE PRINT is now available at www.WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480. (In Canada, call 1-856-232-2367)

# Witherspoon scores on 97-yard pick six as Seahawks D leads Seattle over Giants

**EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J.** (AP)—With all the points the Seattle Seahawks were scoring this season, it was easy to overlook their defense. They were excellent against the run but the pass defense was horrible.

A new Legion of Boom appeared on Monday night and wreaked havoc on Daniel Jones and the New York Giants.

Rookie cornerback Devon Witherspoon scored on a 97-yard interception return late in the third quarter and the Seahawks tied a team record with 11 sacks in a 24-3 victory over the struggling and offensively inept Giants.

"We're just getting going," Seattle coach Pete Carroll said. "We're just putting it together. A night like this for our defense to play that explosively. I can't remember seeking double digit sacks."

Geno Smith threw a 6-yard touchdown pass to DK Metcalf late in the first quarter after a strip-sack by defensive end Mario Edwards Jr. set up a short drive and Kenneth Walker III scored on a 1-yard run just before halftime as the Seahawks (3-1) won their third straight.

A fourth-quarter interception by Quandre Diggs set up a field goal by Jason Myers as the Seattle improve to 6-0 at MetLife Stadium, including the franchise's only Super Bowl win, a 43-8 decision over Denver in 2014.

Besides the sacks, Seattle held New York, which played without star running back Saquon Barkley (ankle) for the second straight game, to 248 yards in total offense, 6 of 16 on third down and forced two turnovers.

Bobby Wagner, Jordyn Brooks, Witherspoon and Uchenna Nwosu each had two sacks.

"I think we needed it. Easy game defensively," said Wagner, who also had 17 tackles. "We've been getting better. We've done a good job stopping the run but the thing was applying pressure. The last game we had a lot of pressures but not as many sacks. I think this game we turned those pressures into sacks."

Graham Gano kicked a 55-yard field goal for the Giants (1-3), who have played one good half in four games this season and have looked nothing like the team that made the playoffs last year for the first time since 2016.

Seattle was clinging to a 14-3 lead late in third quarter when the Giants moved from their 43 to the Seahawks 5. On second and goal, Daniel Jones tried to hit Parris Campbell and the receiver seemed to stumble. Jones' pass went to Witherspoon, the No. 5 overall pick in the draft, and he scored almost untouched crossing from the right side of the field to the left to make it 21-3.

"It was a play that we had seen on film formation," Witherspoon said of his first NFL interception. "He ran basically a return route. I jumped it. He threw the ball and just tried to get to the box. That was my whole mindset."

The Giants' offense has really struggled the past two games without Saquon Barkley and left tackle Andrew Thomas missing his third straight game with hamstring injury.

"No excuses, we didn't get the job done," Giants coach Brian Daboll said.

The Seahawks didn't do a lot against the Giants' defense. The only real drive they had was seven plays, 75 yards just before halftime that was engineered by backup Drew Lock, who replaced Smith after he tweaked a knee and needed X-Rays. The drive included a 51-yard pass to Noah Fant.

Smith, who returned for the second half, finished 13 of 20 for 110 yards. A battered Jones was 27 of 34 for 203 yards. He ran 10 times for 66 yards.

This was the Giants' second home game this season and both have been ugly. There were mostly Cowboys fans in the stands after a 40-0 season-opening loss and the fans left at the end of this one wore Seahawks colors.

"I'd be upset, too, if i was the fans," Daboll said. "So there's a lot of things we've got to do better and that's what we're going to do."

Seattle's first offensive play from scrimmage took about five minutes. Walker took a handoff and headed right. Inside linebacker Bobby Okereke broke through and seemingly made a tackle for a 2-yard loss. For a moment everyone on the field stopped.

Walker felt his body never touched the turf and he got up and ran 20 yards downfield, stopped and then to the end zone, where an official ruled touchdown.

There was a long review of the scoring play and videotape showed Walker's elbow hit the turf. The touchdown call was reversed.

AP

Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes (15) is tripped up by New York Jets linebacker Bryce Huff (47) as he throws during the second quarter of an NFL football game, Sunday, Oct. 1, 2023, in East Rutherford, N.J.

# Debate continues over the controversial holding call in the Chiefs' win over the Jets

It's the holding call heard 'round the NFL. And the debate over whether it was even a penalty continues to rage.

Jets cornerback Sauce Gardner was penalized for defensive holding on Chiefs wide receiver Marquez Valdes-Scantling on a third-and-20 play late in the fourth quarter Sunday night—a decision by referee Frank Steratore that negated an interception by Michael Carter II and gave the ball back to Patrick Mahomes.

Kansas City worked the clock the rest of the way and held on for a 23-20 victory over New York.

A livid Jets coach Robert Saleh shouted at Steratore after the call, and again on the final play of the game. Gardner was also angry, saying he was stunned—and that he didn't hold Valdes-Scantling. Chiefs coach Andy Reid agreed with the call, and so did Mahomes.

On Monday morning, the NFL had "Chiefs are 2-0 as Swifties" in its social media profiles. That, of course, spun the conspiracy theorists into a tizzy since pop superstar Taylor Swift was at the game at MetLife Stadium to watch Chiefs tight end Travis Kelce. Swift was also at the Chiefs' home win over the Chicago Bears last week at Arrowhead Stadium after Kelce invited her.

"Lmaoo maybe if I was a swiftie, the ref wouldn't of threw the flag," Gardner said in a post on X, the platform formerly known as Twitter. Last season's AP Defensive Rookie of the Year then edited the post to say: "Lmaoo maybe if I was a swiftie then ...nvm." The post was later deleted.

The NFL also removed the reference to Swift from its social media profiles.

Saleh was asked about his opinion on the call Monday after he had time to calm down and watch replays.

"I'm just going to leave that one alone until I get a chance to get clarification (from the league)," Saleh said after pausing briefly.

The situation kicked off conversations about the call on sports radio in the New York area as well as on ESPN and NFL Network.

Mahomes supported the call in an interview with 610 AM Sports Radio in Kansas City on Monday.

"I mean, at the end of the day, you get your hands around the guy's neck like 15 yards downfield, they're going to call something," the Chiefs quarterback said. "If it's going to be holding or illegal contact, it's just not allowed. Once I saw him grab him, I threw it up there to give Marquez a chance, kind of knowing the flag was going to come.

"You could see it from my position. I mean, I understand people want to let teams play and stuff like that, but you can't get your hands around guys' necks like that."

Gardner quote-tweeted a post from the radio station that included Mahomes' comments.

"Since we are commenting, let me say it from my perspective," Gardner wrote with a laughing emoji. "For starters, this was around 5-7 yds from the LOS... not 15. 2. I extended my arms and he made the choice to lean on me with all of his weight which caused my hand to slide to the back of his pad; not his neck.

"I did not grab him, I actually made a conscious effort to remove my right arm as you can see in the video. He then tried to swim with his right hand and I pushed his arm down with my left hand lmaoo.. There yall have it. It was not a holding or illegal contact. Ohh my fault, it was holding bc he threw the flag."

Dean Blandino, a rules analyst for Fox Sports who previously served as the NFL's vice president of officiating, said officials made the correct call.

"Valdes-Scantling tries to break to the inside and Gardner reaches across his body and grabs the left shoulder and restricts his ability to get downfield," Blandino said in a video posted on X by The 33rd Team. "It was properly called." ***(AP)***

# Mahomes sets the NFL record for the fastest to reach 200 TD passes

**EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J.** (AP)—Kansas City's Patrick Mahomes threw the 200th touchdown pass of his career, reaching the milestone in his 84th game to break Dan Marino's NFL record.

Mahomes, playing in his first game at MetLife Stadium, connected with Noah Gray on a 34-yard touchdown that gave the Chiefs a 17-0 lead against the New York Jets with 3:24 left in the first quarter on Sunday night.

Marino threw his 200th TD pass in his 89th NFL game with Miami in 1989.

Mahomes surpassed 25,000 yards passing last week in Kansas City's win over Chicago. He accomplished that in 83 games, seven faster than Matthew Stafford's record.

Mahomes entered the game needing 23 yards rushing to break the Chiefs' career mark for a quarterback held by Alex Smith (1,672). He had 17 on two carries at the time of his touchdown pass.

# MLB game time drops 24 minutes to 2:40 with pitch clock

## » Players steal most bases since 1987

NEW YORK (AP)—The average time of a nine-inning major league game dropped to 2 hours, 40 minutes in the first year of the pitch clock, a 24-minute decrease in a season of change that resulted in a spike in batting average and the most stolen bases in nearly 40 years.

Left-handed hitters benefitted from the new restrictions on defensive shifts, runners took advantage of the slightly decreased distance between bases, and average fastball velocity set another record.

The average game time dropped to its 1985 level after passing 3 hours for the first time in 2016. It reached a record 3:10 in 2021 before the introduction of the PitchCom electronic pitch-calling device helped bring it down to 3:04 last year. Over the objections of the players' association, MLB instituted a pitch clock set at 15 seconds with the bases empty and 20 seconds with runners on base.

AP

Miami Marlins' Luis Arraez stand in the on-deck circle next to the pitch clock during the ninth inning of a baseball game against the Baltimore Orioles, July 16, 2023, in Baltimore.

"It took some getting used to, but once you get used to it the game's a lot faster," Minnesota shortstop Carlos Correa said. "There's not wasted time. The pace was great, so I think it's here to stay."

There were nine 3 1/2-hour games, down from a record 390 in 2021.

"I think it's gone smoothly," Los Angeles Dodgers catcher Will Smith said. "It's nice for you to get home a bit earlier. You don't have the 4-hour games anymore."

Miami had the fastest average at just under 2:35, while Baltimore and San Diego topped the majors at 2:44.

MLB's clock will remain the same for the postseason, which averaged 3:23 for nine-inning games last year.

"There are bigger moments, bigger times where we do need to step back and think about something we just did or think about something that we're going to be doing pitch-wise or swing-wise," said Zack Wheeler, who starts Philadelphia's playoffs opener against Miami on Tuesday. "I'm not a big fan of the pitch clock, but it is what it is."

Phillies catcher J.T. Realmuto thought about how to cope with the clock in October.

"We are going to have to be a little more cognizant of taking the time and maybe using our extra mound visits or finding ways to slow the game down for our pitchers," he said.

As part of the clock, MLB instituted penalties for violations that included balls against pitchers and strikes against batters. The New York Mets led with 57 violations, followed by Tampa Bay (52), Pittsburgh (51), San Diego (48) and Miami (47). Seattle had the fewest with 15.

The Pirates topped pitcher violations with 41, followed by the Yankees with 37 and the Mets and Rays with 36 each. The Mariners had the fewest with six. Washington led batter violations with 17, one more than the Mets and Miami. St. Louis had just two, one fewer than Baltimore and the Chicago White Sox.

Philadelphia reliever Craig Kimbrel had the most individual violations with 13, followed by Toronto starter Chris Bassitt with 12 and the Pirates' Johan Oviedo with 11.

Washington's Ildemaro Vargas led batters with five.

There were just four violations of the shift rule requiring two infielders to be on the infield dirt on each side of second base when a pitch is thrown: one each by the Dodgers, Mets, Padres and White Sox.

The major league batting average rose to .248 from .243 last year, which had been its lowest since 1968. The average for left-handed batters, who benefited most from the shift restrictions, increased 11 percentage points to .247, its highest in four years. The average for right-handed hitters rose by two percentage points to .249.

Runs increased to an average of 9.2 per game from 8.6 and stolen bases to 1.4 from 1.0 following the introduction of 18-inch square bases, up from 15 inches. That reduced the distance between first and second, and second and third, by 4 1/2 inches. The 3,503 steals were up from 2,486 last year and the most since 1987. The 80.2% success rate was the highest in big league history, topping the 75.7% in 2021, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

Home runs increased to 5,868 from 5,215 but remained well below the record 6,776 of 2019.

Batters struck out 41,844 times, up from 40,812, but down from the peak of 42,823 in 2019 when they set a record for the 12th straight season.

Four-seam fastballs averaged 94.2 mph, up from 93.9 mph last year and 93.1 mph in 2015, the first year Statcast started tracking.

There were 3,880 pitches of 100 mph or more, an increase from 3,368 last year and 1,829 in 2021. Pitchers threw four-seam fastballs 32.2% of the time, down from 33.2% in 2022 and a Statcast-era peak of 36% in 2016.

Visiting teams went 105-96 in extra-inning games in the first year the rule starting extra innings with a runner on second was made permanent. Visitors have a 368-358 edge in extra innings since the rule was first adopted as a pandemic alteration in 2020; from 2017-19, home teams had a 312-294 advantage.

# Melvin, Preller appear to be safe with big-spending yet underwhelming Padres

**SAN DIEGO** (AP)—Manager Bob Melvin and general manager A.J. Preller appear to be safe in their jobs with the big-spending yet underwhelming San Diego Padres after owner Peter Seidler said in a statement Monday morning that the current leadership team "continues to have my full support."

The announcement came less than 24 hours after the Padres finished the most disappointing season in franchise history at 82-80. They were eliminated from playoff contention on Friday night, a bitter result for a team that came into the season with World Series expectations after making a stirring run to the NL Championship Series last fall and then increasing their payroll to around $250 million, the third highest in baseball.

There have been reports of a fractured relationship between Melvin, who finished his second season with San Diego and 20th overall as a big league manager, and Preller, who has had just two winning records in a full season since being hired in August 2014. Additionally, multiple reports surfaced late in the season suggesting that the Padres are a dysfunctional organization under Preller and have a lack of clubhouse leadership and culture.

"We entered 2023 with expectations that we would build on last year's NLCS appearance and contend for a World Series championship," Seidler said in the statement. "We fell short of that goal. The Padres organization will learn from this season and emerge in 2024 with the pieces in place to compete for San Diego's first World Series title.

"Our current leadership team continues to have my full support, and I have asked them to perform a thorough assessment of our organization, beginning today. We will make the changes necessary to play championship-caliber baseball for our extraordinary fans in 2024," the statement concluded.

Seidler, who recently had an unspecified medical procedure, wasn't available for further comment, the team said. Neither Melvin nor Preller immediately returned calls seeking comment.

Preller has long been a favorite of Seidler, a third-generation member of the O'Malley family that used to own the Dodgers. Seidler was part of a group that purchased the Padres in 2012 and bought out Ron Fowler's majority stake in November 2020. Seidler supported Preller even after the GM was suspended for a month by MLB in September 2016 after its investigation revealed the Padres had withheld medical information from trade partners.

The Padres struggled offensively most of the season despite having a lineup anchored by stars Manny Machado, Fernando Tatis Jr., Juan Soto and Xander Bogaerts.

It took a strong run during the final 2 1/2 weeks, mostly against four of the worst teams in the majors—including three 100-loss teams—for the Padres to get back above .500 for the first time since early May.

Melvin has one year left on the three-year deal he signed when he was hired away from the Oakland Athletics on Nov. 1, 2021. He had one year left on his deal with the A's but was allowed to interview with the Padres and leave without Oakland receiving compensation.

Melvin has been mentioned as a possible replacement for Gabe Kapler, who was fired by the San Francisco Giants on Friday. Melvin grew up in the Bay Area, played at California, spent three years with the Giants during his 10-year big league playing career and then managed the A's for 11 years. He's been voted Manager of the Year three times, including in both leagues.

Asked Sunday if he expected to be back in 2024, Melvin said: "You know what, I'm under contract here next year and that's the only thing I'm thinking about right now."

Just because there were no changes made Monday doesn't mean there won't be some in the future. After the 2006 season, manager Bruce Bochy was essentially pushed out when then-CEO Sandy Alderson urged him to apply for the vacant Giants job despite still having a year left on his contract with the Padres. The Giants hired Bochy, who led them to three World Series titles between 2010 and 2014.

The Padres have never won a World Series and haven't been to the Fall Classic since 1998.

It took three days after the 2021 season for the Padres to fire Jayce Tingler following a brutal September collapse that cost the Padres a playoff spot. Tingler, a friend of Preller's from when they were both in the Texas Rangers organization, lasted only two seasons. He replaced Andy Green, who was fired after the Padres collapsed down the stretch in 2019.

With Seidler's blessing, Preller gave Machado a new $350 million, 11-year deal in spring training, just weeks after the slugger said he planned to opt out of the original $300 million, 10-year deal he signed in 2019. Preller gave Tatis a $340 million, 14-year deal in 2021 and signed Bogaerts to a $280 million, 11-year deal in December.

Soto, who had a strong finish at the plate and played in all 162 games, has a year left on his contract and the Padres will have to decide at some point whether to trade him or attempt to sign him to a long-term deal.

# Butler has new look, and even the Miami Heat were surprised by it

**MIAMI** (AP)—Jimmy Butler had a new look for Media Day, and the NBA world immediately took notice.

The Miami Heat forward arrived for the team's first official day of work this season with piercings—eye, lip and nose—along with a new hairstyle and his fingernails painted black.

It's become a trend of sorts for Butler, who went through the Media Day gamut last year with dreadlocks in a deviation from his usual look.

"I'm very emotional right now. This is my emo state and I like this. This is me," Butler said. "This is how I'm feeling as of late."

Coaches greeted Butler with smiles and laughs. Teammates, it seemed, were caught a bit off guard. Heat center Bam Adebayo - who hadn't seen his teammate before meeting with reporters - thought someone had photoshopped something when a reporter showed him photos of Butler's look.

"That is not real. ... That is (expletive) hilarious," Adebayo said.

Added Heat guard Tyler Herro: "He told me this was his Halloween today."

Still unclear: If Butler will keep the look when Miami opens practice on Tuesday. The team will hold camp at Florida Atlantic University in nearby Boca Raton.

AP

Miami Heat forward Jimmy Butler, sporting a new hairdo and piercings, answers questions during an interview as part of the NBA basketball team's media day, in Miami, Monday, Oct. 2, 2023.

### WEMBY MANIA

Victor Wembanyama's first Media Day in San Antonio was Monday, and Spurs coach Gregg Popovich says he has a simple plan to handle all the buzz that will surround the No. 1 draft pick this season.

Pop's plan: Just roll with it.

"You all are going to do what you do. Fans are going to do what they do," Popovich said. "But because I know the players and because he's got such high character and he's used to this - this isn't the first time that he's gotten attention - I think just handling it organically is better."

That said, Popovich does have a specific plan when it comes to the team's travel arrangements.

"If there are people hanging on the top of the bus, we've got to get them off," Popovich said. "Short of that, we'll be OK."

Also, after a summer when Wembanyama's height was oft-discussed - 7-foot-4? 7-foot-5? - the Spurs are still listing him at 7-foot-3.

## MOTHER

*From page 20*

tion to get on the track and kick ass. I know next season will be really competitive as the mamas are getting comfortable on the track and with their bikes. I'm excited for it!"

Igitol said she'll be back next season and is looking forward to seeing how far she can push herself on the newly designed track that's to come. "Everyone is excited to get on it," she said.

With her 12-year-old daughter's overall win, she said she is super proud of her. "I'm always going to be her biggest fan in everything she does!" Along with the duo, Maribel's boyfriend, Byron Castro, also rode in the Veterans Class. "He definitely is our No. 1 supporter and gets things going for us. We couldn't have done it without him," said Maribel.

Maribel then thanked the MRA for the season.

In other classes, the Mini II Class was won by Billie Pangelinan with 265 points, followed in close second place by T.J. Ferrer with 262 points. Third place went to Nanako Celis with 255 points.

Elleayah Cruz won first overall in the Mini I Class with 250 points; second went to Kaleb Reyes with 44 points.

The younger Peewee 1 Class' sole rider was Bentley Koshiro who racked up 200 points; and in the Peewee ATV Class, Nakoa Torres, won first with 238 points. Second place went to Rockson Cabrera with 100 points.

In the Big Boy ATV Class, Christian Camacho won first overall with 100 points; second went to Greg Clark with 86 points; and third place was Henry Camacho Sr. with 82 points.

LEIGH GASES

First place overall in the Peewee ATV Class of the 2023 Monster Energy Point Series Race, Nakoa Torres, is joined on the podium by second place Rockson Cabrera, during the Marianas Racing Association banquet last Saturday at the Saipan World Resort.

LEIGH GASES

First place overall in the Mini I Class of the 2023 Monster Energy Point Series Race, Elleayah Cruz, is joined on the podium by second place Kaleb Reyes, during the Marianas Racing Association banquet last Saturday at the Saipan World Resort.

LEIGH GASES

First place overall in the Peewee I Class of the 2023 Monster Energy Point Series Race, Bentley Koshiro, holds up his trophy and certificate during the Marianas Racing Association banquet last Saturday at the Saipan World Resort.

LEIGH GASES

First place overall in the Big Boy ATV Class of the 2023 Monster Energy Point Series Race, Christian Camacho, is joined on the podium by second place Greg Clark, and third place Henry Camacho Sr., during the Marianas Racing Association banquet last Saturday at the Saipan World Resort.

LEIGH GASES

First place overall in the Mini II Class of the 2023 Monster Energy Point Series Race, Billie Pangelinan, is joined on the podium by second place T.J. Ferrer, third place Nanako Celis, fourth place Calix Cruz, and fifth place Carter Castro, during the Marianas Racing Association banquet last Saturday at the Saipan World Resort.

## PLUS

*From page 20*

Heading into the third quarter, A Plus Team enjoyed a 55-35 lead. From there, A Plus Team could not be stopped as Sanchez went on to bank 31 points, followed by De Shawn Reign's 18, and Ashburn's 15 markers.

Vizion's Jeff Galvez mirrored Sanchez's efforts, but their team as a whole came up short from missed opportunities and lackadaisical ball-handling.

For the Easy Riders, they kept a resurgent The Game team at bay in the last quarter after two easy quarters in the beginning.

The Game tried to keep pace with the Easy Riders via sharpshooter Ervin Villarin, but the Easy Riders had more players open—as a result, Easy Riders had more opportunities and took advantage of it.

However, it was pretty much neck-and-neck in the last quarter as The Game were getting their groove on. Easy Riders still had the upper hand though and proceeded to make their shots and left The Game in the dust.

In the end, Villarin scored 26 points, while Preston Basa had 10. Meanwhile, Easy Riders' Frank Ferrer put up 26, Andrew Ashburn scored 12, and seven other team members contributed to the cause.

In Monday's games, Blue Haus slipped past JSN, 89-84; and Bridge Capital won a close 85-82 game against IT&E.

Last Sunday, Choju blew out IT&E, 114-71.

Last Saturday, San Antonio Market-Lakay beat Vizion, 89-82.

And last Friday, Legends defeated San Antonio Market-Lakay, 87-69.

If tonight's and tomorrow's makeup games are completed, the playoffs are set for next week.

### MONDAY

**A Plus Team 109** – Sanchez 31, Reign 18, Ashburn 15, Echavez 13, Javier 10, Libuw 10, Mendiola 8, Diaz 4.

**Vizion 87** – Galvez 31, Pablo 24, Sedillo 20, De Belen 6, Sangoyo 6.

**Scoring by quarters:** 20-16, 55-35, 89-62, 109-87.

### SATURDAY

**Easy Riders 78** – Ferrer 26, Ashburn 12, Padayao 9, Velasco 7, Diwa 6, De Guzman 6, Camacho 5, Directo 5, Gaviola 2.

**Eats Easy-The Game 61** – Villarin 27, Basa 10, Galang 9, Fitial 7, Deleon Guerrero 4, Ferrari 2, Ong 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 24-11, 48-34, 64-49, 78-61.

## MHS

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with 49 points; and third was ChaCha Ocean View Middle School with 57 points in the 2-mile race.

Brilliant Star School took the elementary school division with 38 points; and Tinian Elementary School and SIS both had 71 points in the 1-mile race.

In the individual high school boys standings, MHS' Michael Miller was the fastest with a time of 18:56; second was ACS' Jireh Wang with 20:04; and MHS' Pony Tang came in third with a time of 20:21.

Quido Jambor from SIS clocked in at 12:40 for first place in the middle school boys standings; and ACS' Raffy Cai and Daniel Yang came in at 12:44 and 12:49 respectively.

For the elementary school boys individual standings, SIS' Gabriel Walsh was first at 7:15; second place went to Orion Garde from Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School with 7:20; and a close third went to SIS' Ezra West at 7:21.

In celebration of Saipan International School's 30th anniversary, all participants received commemorative medals for their efforts.

SIS headmaster Dr. Ron Snyder said that he's heard from several coaches how happy the students were in receiving the medals. He added that the Gecko 5000 is their first community event to celebrate and is overwhelmed with the response.

The fourth and last qualifier is the Kagman High School Invitational at ChaCha Ocean View Middle School on Saturday, Oct. 7; and the championship is set for Oct. 14 at the Saipan Country Club at Saipan Vegas.

Witherspoon scores on 97-yard pick six as Seahawks D leads Seattle over Giants.

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Sports

Butler has new look, and even the Miami Heat were surprised by it.

PAGE 19

# Mother-daughter duo bags overall wins in '23 season

LEIGH GASES

First place overall in the Mini ATV Class of the 2023 Monster Energy Point Series Race, Anellah Igitol, is joined on the podium by second place Kimason Cabrera, and third place Franchesca Yumul. They are joined by Kassidy Camacho and Keoni Rosario during the Marianas Racing Association banquet last Saturday at the Saipan World Resort.

LEIGH GASES

First place overall in the first-ever Mama Class of the 2023 Monster Energy Point Series Race, Maribel Igitol, is joined on the podium by second place Merissa Rasa, third place Marlyn Castro, and fourth place Mariana Alvarez, during the Marianas Racing Association banquet last Saturday at the Saipan World Resort.

**By LEIGH GASES**
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REPORTER

The mother-daughter duo of Maribel and Anellah Igitol were forces to be reckoned with on the dirt track of the Cowtown Race Track and were rewarded for their effort during the Marianas Racing Association banquet last Saturday at the Saipan World Resort.

The newest class in this 2023 Monster Energy Points Race season was dominated by mama bear, Maribel Igitol, with a perfect 300 points.

Second place went to Merissa Rasa with 216 points; Marlyn Castro had 120 points; and fourth place was Mariana Alvarez at 44 points.

Besting four others, the younger Igitol took first place in the Mini ATV Class with 216 overall points. Second place went to Kimason Cabrera with 90 points; third was Franchesca Yumul with 67 points; fourth was Kassidy Camacho with 50 points; and fifth was Keoni Rosario with 44 points.

The 37-year-old teacher at Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School said of her overall win, "Being able to finish first this season is very rewarding. This is the first time I've made it to the podium during the three seasons I've been racing. Having a Mama's Class really opened up more opportunities for the mama racers."

About the new class, she said it "is a really fun class. The mama riders are always there to cheer and encourage each other on the track. We just have fun and enjoy the ride!"

As for the other mama riders in the class with her, Igitol said that they "are amazing. They have the drive and determina-

*See MOTHER on Page 19*

## A Plus Team, Easy Riders remain undefeated in Eagles caging

**By LEIGH GASES**
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REPORTER

A Plus Team of the Masters Division and Easy Riders in the Open Division A team remain undefeated in the Inaugural SMEC-SMLEG Invitational Basketball Tournament 2023 after winning their makeup games at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

A Plus Team's most recent conquest was against Vizion, with a blowout, 109-87, win on Monday, then defeated JSN, 76-59, last Sunday, for a 7-0 record.

The Easy Riders, on the other hand, won their sixth game after they defeated Eats Easy-The Game, 78-61, last Saturday.

In A Plus Team's game against Vizion, they gave them a beating as they took their momentum from Sunday and more than doubled their score.

Vizion managed to hold on in the first quarter as they trailed by only 4 points, 16-20, but A Plus Team's offense exploded in the second quarter. Led by Chris Sanchez, Gino Libuw, and Andrew Ashburn, the trio had 23 points between them in that quarter alone.

*See PLUS on Page 19*

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

In this file photo, A Plus Team poses for a photo during the opening ceremony of the Inaugural SMEC-SMLEG Invitational Basketball Tournament 2023 at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court. They are currently undefeated in the Masters Division.

## MHS, ACS, BSS top boys divisions of Gecko 5000

**By LEIGH GASES**
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REPORTER

Marianas High School, Agape Christian School, and Brilliant Star School topped the boys divisions of the PSS/NMA All Schools Cross Country 2023-2024 third qualifier—the Gecko 5000 at the Banzai Cliff last Saturday morning

MHS and ACS both had 19 points in the high school boys division, while Mount Carmel School was next with 69 points in the 3-mile race.

In the middle school boys division, ACS was first with 18 points; SIS came second

*See MHS on Page 19*

LEIGH GASES

Marianas High School's Michael Miller runs into first place of the high school boys division during the PSS/NMA All Schools Cross Country 2023-2024 third qualifier—the Gecko 5000—at the Banzai Cliff last Saturday morning.